



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Bystanders Help Nab Pantry Robber

*But It Was a Harrowing
Morning on 24th Street*

By Steve Steinberg

Risking his own safety, a Noe Valley merchant wrestled with a gun-toting robber last month and foiled his escape.

The dramatic struggle took place on the morning of Feb. 5, after the robber had terrorized the co-owner of the Pantry, a kitchenware shop at the corner of 24th and Sanchez streets.

Ryan Quinlan, owner of the French Tulip flower stand next door, was setting out his flowers a little after 9 a.m. when he heard Christina Arce of the Pantry, banging on the connecting wall between the two stores and screaming in desperation.

Going to investigate, Quinlan confronted a man, later identified as 31-year-old Luis Martinez, emerging from the store. Quinlan asked Martinez what was going on inside. "Something's wrong with that girl in there" was Martinez's reply.

But Quinlan sensed that Martinez had done something to Arce. "My first impression was that he really hurt her, that she was stabbed or punched."

Acting on instinct, Quinlan grabbed Martinez, putting him in a bear hug. The two men struggled into the street. What would turn out to be stolen Pantry money flew out of Martinez's pockets and onto the sidewalk.

At some point, "after wrestling all over the street," Quinlan says, Martinez managed to pull what looked like a small-caliber automatic pistol from his pocket.

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A victim of the current recession, Kelly Lim lost her job of choice in a small architectural firm, and is now cashiering at the Cheese Company on 24th Street. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Many Locals Join the Unemployment Lines

By Denise Minor

The nation's economic doldrums are wafting through Noe Valley, leaving in their wake a number of unemployed—and a far greater number of people forced to accept underemployment, part-time work, and jobs with no security.

"We've had several people in our church become unemployed in the last year," said Rev. Carl Smith, of the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street. "And

I keep running into people, for instance standing in line at the post office, who over the course of the conversation tell me they are unemployed."

"These are hard times," Smith continued. "And there's a lot of pessimism out there."

In the coffee shops and cafes along 24th Street, more than half of those approached by a *Voice* reporter said that their employment situation had been adversely affected by the recession.

"I haven't been employed in my field since May," said Kelly Lim, who works as a cashier at the Cheese Company on 24th Street. "I studied landscape architecture in college and came here a year and a half ago from Connecticut. I got a job right away, but was let go after six months."

The small firm that employed her had been doing fine for 10 years, explained

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Jeopardy-phile Wins \$56,000 On Game Show

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

Douglass Street resident Walter Mayes sheepishly admits to blowing every question about Northern California during his five-day stint as a contestant on the television game show *Jeopardy* in January.

"I missed one on Melvin Belli, a question about Oakland, even a Daily Double on Jack London. I couldn't believe it," he says.

But his lack of prowess in Bay Area matters didn't deter Mayes from beating his opponents on four mind-bending shows, and amassing \$56,003 in earnings. Although he was defeated by a challenger in his fifth game, Mayes still has a chance at earning a spot in *Jeopardy*'s Annual Tournament of Champions, set to air in November.

A diehard *Jeopardy* fan since childhood, the 33-year-old Escondido native auditioned for the show once before—in 1987—but failed to make the final cut.

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Douglass Street resident Walter Mayes not only won dollars for his wisdom, but praise for his sportsmanlike conduct on the popular TV quiz show Jeopardy. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

Second Opinions on St. Luke's Hospital

Editor:

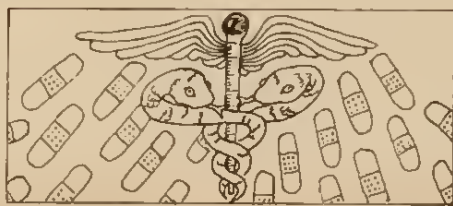
In the "Let Bylines Be Bylines" column of last month's *Voice*, Dr. John Pierce invited the neighborhood to respond to his concern that Noe Valley residents perceived St. Luke's Hospital as a second-rate facility. Although not a resident of Noe Valley, as a Mission District resident and regular fan of the *Noe Valley Voice*, I thought that he would appreciate my input.

About a year ago, I visited a friend at St. Luke's, and I was taken aback by the dreary setting and lack of personnel. As I walked past the dark entrance (with no staff in sight) and through the empty corridors and unsightly hallways, my personal feeling was one of regret.

I had not seen a hospital that unattractive in years, and I hoped that the medical care which my friend received didn't reflect her immediate surroundings. I realize that looks are not everything, but a clean and warm setting can do much for mental healing, in addition to the physical care.

Since I work in the Human Resources division of a law firm, I offer guidance to personnel on our city's HMOs and the many hospitals that are affiliated with them. To be frank, if an employee asked me what I thought of St. Luke's, I'd mention the concerns I just addressed, and remind the employee of other options available under his or her health insurance.

C.J. Barragan III
Liberty Street



Editor:

Shortly after I was discharged from St. Luke's Hospital, I read the article by John Pierce in your February 1992 issue. Dr. Pierce wrote, "I have found that the hospital is an unusually friendly, community-oriented institution that has never failed to meet my needs or the needs of my patients."

I have recently moved from New York City to San Francisco, where I am attempting to establish my medical writing career. On my way home from doing research, I was injured in a fall at the J-car platform at Church and Market. The ambulance took me to St. Luke's, where I received excellent care from the moment I entered the emergency room until I left the hospital.

The nurses, physicians, and technicians in the emergency room were wonderful. Dr. Theodore Vickman, my orthopedic surgeon, immediately won my trust by explaining everything to me clearly, and after I was admitted to St. Luke's, I found that all the health care professionals were exemplary.

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I came to St. Luke's Hospital frightened and in pain. I did not know to what kind of hospital and staff I was entrusting my health and safety. Now I know—a superior hospital and staff. I am very grateful to Dr. Vickman and all the other health professionals for the high-quality care that they provided to me.

Michael Mannion
Twenty-fifth Street

Editor:

Despite John Pierce's earnest essay defending the reputation of St. Luke's Hospital and some excellent doctors on staff there, I could tell him a couple of horror stories about the place. My father almost died as a result of their mismanagement, and probably did die from it last year.

My personal experience is such that I would not recommend St. Luke's if another option is open.

Jean Amos
Elizabeth Street

Editor:

I moved to San Francisco last July from Charlottesville, Va., on a sort of trial basis—and I'm here to stay. My daughter, who has lived here for over 10 years, was a great help and steered me to Noe Valley.

The *Voice* is one of many unexpected delights that help the neighborhood become a "community," rather than just an area. It brings people together, and for this reason should receive valentines all year round.

I also want to say that I agree 100 percent with John Pierce's notion that "St. Luke's Is Suffering from a Misdiagnosis." I felt rather dizzy one day and decided to check it out at St. Luke's. They couldn't have been kinder or more caring. I recommend the hospital highly. I plan to return if ever I need help again.

L.E. Partridge
Noe Valley resident

Fed up with Vandals Having A Field Day on 25th Street

Editor:

There is an epidemic occurring in my neighborhood. The epidemic has not only been directed at my home, but has spread up and down our block of 25th Street (near Diamond). Criminals have marked us as "pushovers who have insurance."

In the last year, my family has been the victim of two car thefts, an arson, and many instances of vandalism—despite the fact that we live in Noe Valley, an area that Police Officer Ray Benson described to us this morning as the "safest area in the city." He meant safe for our physical selves. However, it is not a safe area for our possessions, and I am becoming increasingly concerned about our bodily safety.

Officer Benson, a very fine officer, was here today (Feb. 8) because of the latest incident: my roommate's car was stolen out of our driveway. That theft is only the most recent in a long list of crimes affecting my family:

- In April 1991, my car was set on fire in my own driveway at approximately 5:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning. Arson was considered the cause of the fire.



- In June 1991, my son's truck was stolen from the street in front of our house. The truck was reported seen in McLaren Park. My son called the police. The police said to call back in three hours. When he called, the police said they could not find it. My son went to the park, saw the truck exactly where the anonymous caller had said it would be, found it still in fairly good condition, and called the police again. Again, they couldn't find it. When the truck was finally recovered several days later, it was severely stripped and totaled.

- In October 1991, my roommate's car was broken into, and several items were stolen from the car.

- In January 1992 on three successive nights, my son's van (1) had the back window broken, (2) had the side mirrors broken, and (3) was sideswiped by a large white truck in a "hit and run" in the middle of the night.

- Also in January, my car was vandalized by someone trying to break into the door. They did not succeed.

My neighbors tell me of crimes against them ranging from an arson on my neighbor's front porch, to home burglaries, to car thefts and vandalism, such as slashed tires and broken windows. Two of our neighbors were held up at gunpoint at 10:30 p.m. on the corner of 25th and Diamond streets. To my knowledge, none of the crimes in our neighborhood has been solved, and the criminals feel that they have free rein because they are never caught or punished.

Many of my neighbors were out this morning talking to Officer Benson. This neighborhood has always cared about each other. We have had a vandal watch group on our block, and it will be reactivated soon. But what good does that do when most of the crimes are committed in the middle of the night, when we working people are asleep?

I love this city! I graduated from San Francisco 30 years ago, and have lived in many areas other than Noe Valley. But I have never experienced problems of this magnitude. I don't like being a victim and feeling that the police either cannot



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or will not do anything to help. At the very least, the police should patrol our neighborhood between 1 and 5 a.m., when most of these crimes take place. Or perhaps Mayor Jordan should consider restructuring the Police Department, so that the concerns of the majority of citizens are more directly addressed.

Barbara Williams
Twenty-fifth Street

Editor's Note: We passed Barbara Williams' letter on to Officer Lois Perillo, who said she'd get right on it.



Cartoon Language Not Suitable for Kids

Editor:

I wish someone had checked out the cartoons that accompanied your February story titled "Women Cartoonists Lay it on the Line in *Twisted Sisters*." Couldn't you have spaced out the word "F--K" instead of printing it?

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One Witness's Personal Chronology

By Dolores Castro

Editor's Note: Noe Valley resident Dolores Castro sent us this eyewitness account of a robbery that took place Feb. 5 at the Pantry on 24th Street. For details on the capture and arrest of the robbery suspect, see Steve Steinberg's story on page 1.

SCREAM
man
phone cord
GUN
hide
look
RUN
phone
cry
return
shoes
Woman
witness
kiss
squad car
work
friends
talk
Report: 5'10"
work
home
bath
sleep

I witnessed a robbery last Wednesday. A lady screamed bloody murder from the corner store. I was at the bus stop just outside the store. Her screams were agonizing, and some man came out of the store. He shrugged his shoulders and said, "Something is wrong with that lady. I don't know what."

My first reaction was to ask him, "Well, why aren't you helping her? What did you do to her?"

Her screams were pain-filled. I imagined the worst. I expected to see the worst when I entered the store. She was screaming behind a door that had been tied shut with a telephone cord. I was so scared. I didn't know if she was screaming alone in the dark, or if someone was back there hurting her. I thought, what if the man who left had brutalized her and is coming back, and here I am caught in the middle? Her screams reminded me of a child in pain. And I saw my daughter fall from a tree.

I stared at the knotted cord, haunted by the seconds, my conscience, and her screams. I untied the cord from the doorknob as fast as I could and ran. As I ran, another man raced in breathless, and said to "duck" because the robber was returning with a gun.

I hid under a shelf for some seconds, then peered out and saw the "gunman" in the middle of the street. I crept from hiding, kicked off my high heels, and sped to the hardware store across the street.

Nobody wanted to help me free the woman from behind that door.

As it turned out though, a man outside at the flower shop wrestled down the robber. The other merchants had called the cops, who were already tracking the fleeing man. They caught him and had plenty of witnesses. I returned to the shop and saw the woman who had been trapped behind the door. She was okay, and I was so relieved. □

Merchant's Quick Action Leads to Robber's Arrest

Continued from Page 1

When Quinlan saw the gun, he let go of Martinez and ran for cover.

Other people on 24th Street also saw the weapon and began screaming. "He's got a gun!" Ali Khajenouri, owner of the newsstand inside the nearby Courtyard Cafe, said that four or five "panicky" people ran into the cafe and hid.

Khajenouri had also heard Arce screaming, and when he went outside to look around, saw Martinez waving his gun. Despite the pandemonium on the street, Khajenouri kept his composure, went back inside the Courtyard Cafe, and dialed 911—as did several other merchants and passersby.

Martinez, suddenly free and with everyone running away from him, scooped up some of the stolen money, turned the corner, and ran down Sanchez Street. But several witnesses followed his progress, and meter maids on duty in the area pursued him.

Within minutes, up to eight Mission Station police officers converged on the scene and trapped Martinez near the corner of Sanchez and Jersey streets.

The gun he displayed was found to be a fake—a cleverly disguised cigarette lighter.

As Martinez was taken away, the neighborhood breathed a collective sigh of relief. "I'm glad everyone's safe," said Quinlan.

The extremely scary holdup incident began when Martinez entered the Pantry just after it opened. Arce, who normally manages the store's Berkeley location, said that Martinez came behind the counter where she was standing and got very close to her. Looking down, she saw he was holding a gun. Martinez de-

manded money from the cash register, as well as from the store's cash reserve box. His take amounted to some \$300, most of which was recovered later.

After pocketing the cash, Martinez told the very frightened shop owner that he needed to lock her up, and insisted she enter the store's rear bathroom. He then bound the bathroom door closed, wrapping a telephone cord around the doorknob.

From inside the bathroom, Arce recalled, she soon heard the voice of what sounded like a woman customer, asking Martinez to exchange a purchase. Martinez apparently told the customer to come back in a few minutes, but the woman insisted he wait on her, since she had a bus to catch.

Listening to the conversation, Arce thought, "My God, he's helping the customer."

Arce managed to push open the bathroom door to peek out, but Martinez saw her and yelled, "Get back in!"

She then heard another customer come in and say, "He's got a gun." At that point, fearing for the safety of the customers, Arce began pounding on the wall and screaming as loud as she could.

Sometime during the ensuing melee on the street, a woman, later determined to be Noe Valley resident Dolores Castro, went to the bathroom door and untied the phone cord, letting Arce out. (See Castro's moving account of the experience, this page.)

As Arce gained her freedom, Martinez was losing his—probably for a long time. A San Francisco resident and parolee from California State Prison, where he'd served a term for burglary, Martinez was charged with robbery, false imprisonment, and two counts of displaying a

replica of a gun.

Also, according to Inspector Tom Horan of the San Francisco Police Robbery Detail, Martinez is a suspect in as many as 10 other San Francisco robberies, stretching over a 16-day period from Jan. 20 to Feb. 5. As of late February, Martinez had been charged in five of the cases.

The police also noted that Martinez was a prime suspect in the Jan. 27 robbery of Panetti's, a gift shop at 3927 24th St., a few doors down from the Pantry.

Marjorie Panetti, owner of the store, said she was convinced upon hearing Martinez's description—he has prominent tattoos on his neck and arms—that he was the man who had robbed her at gunpoint of \$400. But Panetti was unable to identify Martinez from mug shots taken after his arrest.

"We still think he's the same person," said Robbery Inspector Tom Sullivan, who investigated the Panetti's holdup. Sullivan said, however, that he was doubtful charges would be filed against Martinez in that case.

According to local merchants, Martinez had been hanging around 24th Street for a while prior to the two recent robberies. Arce believes he was in her shop, perhaps casing it, the day Panetti's was robbed.

Khajenouri reported seeing Martinez "pacing up and down the street" for the past four or five months, asking people for money and becoming "very rude" when refused. But Khajenouri "had no idea that he could be this violent all of a sudden."

The Feb. 5 robbery—like all violent crimes—has taken a toll among the victims. Arce says she now feels "paranoid" about being alone with a customer, and tries to stay close to the front door of her shop.

Quinlan suffered a badly strained back for his efforts in stopping Martinez, but has no regrets. "I feel I did something right. . . . I'm no hero, I just did what was right." □


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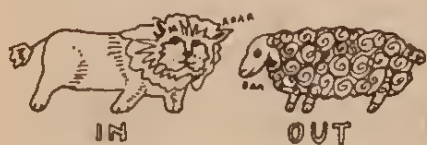
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Continued from Page 2

My 12-year-old and other young people enjoy reading our "local paper." We look at the ads and the articles, but the editors and those sisters are twisted to publish those particular cartoons. (The one with "Famous Sex Crimes" as a hook title didn't go over too well either.)

Maybe I'm off the wall here, but is the *Noe Valley Voice* an adults-only paper? Maybe I shouldn't let these kids read it. However, they're the ones out there on Saturdays, spending their cash on 24th Street. Just wondering?!

P.S. I personally think the cartoons are cool, but I'm 39.

L. Duggan
Castro Street

Editor's Reply: There was some debate on the Voice staff about the appropriateness of publishing a raunchy cartoon last month. However, the gist of the Twisted Sisters story was that 14 women cartoonists had put together a collection of outrageous "bad girl" art, and we felt we needed to print at least one sterling example.



Unholy Mix of Christmas And Commerce

Editor:

In the December issue of the *Voice*, the "Rumors" columnist wrote that the "NVBI" has surveyed some Downtown Noe Valley merchants as to their best buys this Hanukkah/Christmas.

My comments may seem trivial to people who do not consider Christmas a celebration of the birth of Christ. However, the majority of the world population does believe, and is very sensitive to any undermining of this special and sacred—not commercial—Holy Day.

Hanukkah is in no way related to Christmas. Please, therefore, report Christmas separately, and not as an "and/or" insignificant item.

May I suggest that a knowledgeable traditional Christian edit items related to Christian Holy Days for accuracy in the *Noe Valley Voice*, which I do very much enjoy except for the above goof.

M. A. Bruet
Sanchez Street

Two Sides to the Pigeon Flap

Editor:

The neighbors who are complaining about Anna Muru's feeding of the pigeons in your February story ("The Long and Winding Road of Noe Valley's Pigeon Lady") say that the increment in the bird population in Noe Valley has disrupted their lives. This is really laughable, when the population of cities, states, nations, and the world in general has

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been affecting not only other people's lives, but the animals as well.

In reality, the neighbors' complaints stem from the fact that they do not like animals, and from a concern only for themselves and their property.

The ancestors of the animals in Noe Valley came to this area long before we did. They are no longer wild, although we call them such. For many generations they have learned to depend on us, and without us they could not survive. What can a city offer to animals that depend on nature to provide food for them when we have taken their habitats and built concrete jungles?

The pigeons have a long history of service to the human animal. In World War I, medals and hero status were awarded to birds. Many lives were saved because the pigeon, though wounded by enemy fire, delivered its message to the final destination. Besides, they represent our symbol for peace.

Compassion, admiration, and charity are certainly due to these creatures, which only ask to co-exist with humans in such a harsh environment. Your paper mentioned that violence had been used against these innocent, voiceless creatures. It is alarming that some people would resort to acts of violence, just because a compassionate individual cares about the defenseless—especially when there are burglaries all over the neighborhood, aggravated assaults with deadly weapons are taking place, drugs are sold on the corner, and our streets are littered.

One neighbor stated, "We are old." Well, I am old too, and at our ages we should be preoccupied with leaving behind a world where all living things are respected and taken care of, and where justice will prevail for humans and animals alike.

Joan Woodroad
Eighty-seventh Avenue
Oakland



Editor:

Thanks for your great "Pigeon Lady from Hell" story. As an inveterate hater of flying rats, I was flushed with fear and loathing by the terrifying details of your in-depth story.

I have two words for the unfortunate neighbors of the bird lady: "bird glue." Bird glue is a sticky, non-toxic substance, which when applied to windowsills, ledges, roof lines, anywhere the little buggers like to roost, effectively deters their landing for up to a year at a time. Just clean the affected area (wear a mask so you don't get some nasty disease) and

apply the stuff. It's available at Cole Hardware in the upper Haight.

Unfortunately, though, this is only a band-aid solution. As for the larger issue of the Pigeon Lady's feeding habits, this is at best a dysfunctional behavior. Perhaps an action in the civil courts is a remedy that could lead to a more formal injunction or other intervention on behalf of the neighbors.

Steve Klingaman
Twentieth Street



Greetings from Maine

Dear Friends in Noe Valley:

It's been five months since the Nicola family left 4245 25th St., after living in the Valley for 36 years. We have many happy memories.

First, we would like to thank our daughter Cindy for the surprise farewell party, weepy as it was. And thanks to all our dear, dear neighbors and friends who came to say goodbye.

We are very happy in our new home, and I am close to my family, but as the song goes, "We left our heart in Noe Valley." The weather here is not too bad. We had 25 inches of snow, but it's about all gone and the temperature is now 12 degrees above zero. (One day it was 10 below.) The trees are beautiful with the snow on them, but much prettier in the fall.

Steve and Francis are fine, but they talk of Bruno's and Original Joe's often.

I will be back in June to pick up Christopher, so you will still see Phyllis and her cane sitting on the Walgreen's bench. I'll be bugging Sandy and Henry, and also my garage girls, my little people next door at 4247. Hope to meet the new people on the block at 4245.

P.S. Don't forget, Mylene—time to plant!

Phyllis Nicola and the Nicola family
Waterville, Maine

Make Live Entertainment More Accessible

Editor:

I have lived in wonderful Noe Valley for nearly 15 years. I love it here and think it is one of the best places on the planet. As a partially disabled person who has some difficulty climbing stairs and riding buses, I particularly appreciate the fact that not only can I find most things I need within walking distance of my apartment, but also that most places are accessible to me.

One of the few reasons I have to leave Noe Valley is to seek out entertainment

or attend some cultural event. The only place I enjoy going to in the Valley to hear live music is the Noe Valley Ministry, for its music programs. In the past few years, however, my arthritis has made it more difficult to climb the stairs there, and I find the chairs very hard on my back.

In the "good old days," San Francisco had many neighborhood cafes and coffee shops where people could go to hear music, poetry readings, etc., in a non-bar environment (and at a reasonable cost). Now, with funds for the arts being reduced, perhaps it would be a good time for neighborhood restaurants and bookstores to bring back live entertainment. It would be heaven to be able to walk to a neighborhood spot where friends and families could comfortably share local talent. It also might give our young people something to do, and encourage our students to do creative writing, composing, or performing.

I know that there are a lot of people, abled and disabled, who would welcome having some place to go close to home without the hassle of looking for a parking spot, waiting for the Muni, or spending money on a cab. Perhaps some Noe Valley merchants could start a positive trend.

Louise Mangini
Vicksburg Street



Ministry Building Fund Gets a Lift from Realtor

Editor:

We are very pleased to know that B.J. Droubi Real Estate, on 24th Street near Castro, will be donating 20 percent of gross commissions that result from people doing business with the firm who also mention the Noe Valley Ministry Community Building Fund.

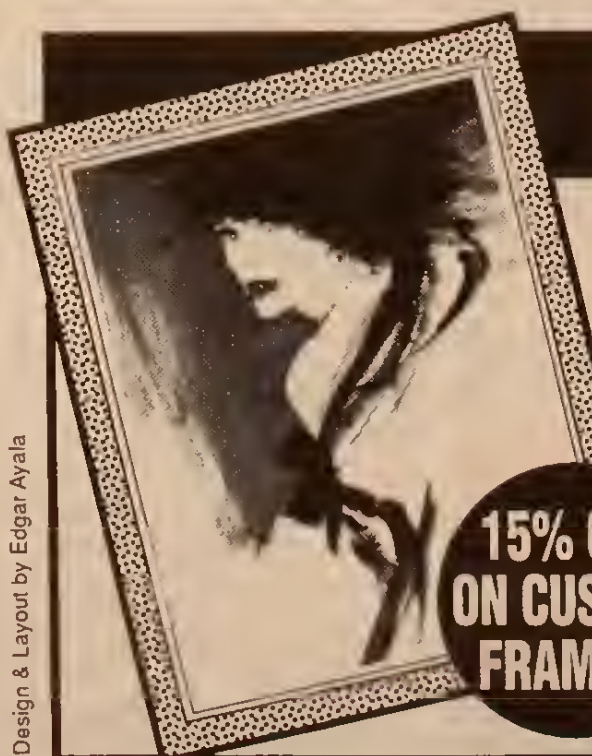
B.J. Droubi will include a special notice about the Building Fund appeal in its newsletter to clients and potential customers.

Also, Mark Capelle of Whole Earth Access and Andrea Gosline of PIP Printing on Taraval have both agreed to furnish goods or services for the Noe Valley Ministry fund drive. This is great news and a good start!

Carl Smith
Noe Valley Ministry
Sanchez Street



ILLUSTRATIONS BY KAROL BARSKE



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Residents Redo Their Resumes

Continued from Page 1

Lim, but last year hit the skids, forcing the architect owner to close shop and begin working out of his home.

"It's so frustrating," said Lim. "I want a meaningful job, and I've considered other options, such as working at a women's center. But those jobs are almost all volunteer."

Noe Valley resident Jed Handler echoed Lim's frustrations one recent Saturday morning, while he sipped cappuccino in front of the San Francisco Coffee Company. Handler is a freelance videographer who specializes in the arts, particularly in taping dancers and performance artists. Since there are fewer grants for the arts these days, fewer artists are hiring Handler.

"It's the trickle-down theory," he said. "And for me, it appears to have trickled out."

Another Noe Valley resident, who preferred not to give his name, said the corporation where he worked as a full-time employee had changed his status to that of a freelance consultant. Although his income has remained the same, he no longer has job security or health and vacation benefits.

At the present time, court reporter Mary Garland has no fears of losing her job. But she's noticed that the number of depositions arriving at her office is the lowest she's seen in 12 years at court. "I don't know the reason for the shortage of work, but I feel it is somehow related to the recession," reported Garland.

Dave McCarroll, who owns Drewes Market, a popular butcher shop on Church Street near 29th, says the recession has been the primary topic of conversation among his customers since the economy started to slide in the fall of 1990.

"Most of my customers are families with at least one child," said McCarroll. "From them I hear stories, such as the mom losing her morning job and the father being cut back 10 hours a week."

In response to their lower income, people are buying less meat and fish. "When we opened in 1984, business was fantastic. We quadrupled what the previous owner had taken in," said McCarroll. "But in 1991, we took in \$45,000 less than we had the previous year. Also, in the few weeks that they were making the movie last October, we lost \$12,000." (Church Street was turned into a virtual dead-end street during the month-long filming of the Disney movie *Sister Act*.)

McCarroll had to cut back his employees' 40-hour work weeks to 20 and 30 hours a week. Because of that, he lost a manager who couldn't make ends meet on the reduced salary.

"If things keep going like this, I'm going to lose another employee," said McCarroll. "I've used up all my personal savings trying to keep things afloat. I just don't know how much longer this can last."

Even though the view from Drewes last month was far from rosy, a number of those interviewed at other local hangouts said their job status had not been threatened by the economic downturn. JoAnn Barton, an employee at a school for travel agents, said her firm had actually seen an increase in enrollment.

"We've gotten hundreds of inquiries," said Barton. "This could very well be a



Steve Itelson set up his own actuarial consulting business in his home on Diamond Street after his former employer let him go last year. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

reflection of the fact that many people go back to school during a recession."

Nina Kohn, a receptionist at a medical clinic, also has no worries about losing her position. In fact, she's confident that if she decided to look for another job, it wouldn't be hard to find.

"In the medical field, there are always jobs," said Kohn, "because there are always going to be sick people."

Diamond Street resident Steve Itelson counsels against such presumptions, however. "Recessions had never hit my field before," said Itelson. "But a year ago I received my severance notice, and I haven't been able to find a full-time job since then."

Itelson is an actuary, a combination mathematician-consultant who advises employers on employee benefit plans and the career paths likely to be chosen by workers.

For 17 years, he plied the trade, most recently working for Milliman and

Robertson International Consulting. However, when Milliman and Robertson lost its largest client—the City of San Francisco Retirement System—Itelson was let go.

Nowadays, he said, the actuary job market is extremely tight, particularly for those specializing in public accounts. "Although actuaries are highly paid, compared to most professions, I was underpaid for my field. That was because my clients were mostly governmental entities and unions, which can't afford to pay what many corporations can," said Itelson. "But it was a branch of the field that I liked."

Itelson has adapted in the way many jobless professionals have of late: he has both diversified and become self-employed. Last fall he started commuting to Pittsburg to teach classes in mathematics at Los Medanos Community College. Itelson has also set up shop in his home as a private consultant.

His wife, Roz Itelson, had quit work years ago to raise their two children, Matt, 14, and Shelley, 7. After her husband's layoff, she found a job with the federal government, which has provided the family with crucial medical coverage.

"This has had a significant effect on our household," said Steve Itelson. "We've cut back our budget about 25 percent. We don't go to the same restaurants, and we can't give to charities the way we used to."

All in all though, Itelson is optimistic. "We're much better off than a lot of people," he said. "We've owned our own home for 10 years, so the payments aren't as high as others, and we haven't had to dip into the children's college fund."

And there have been some benefits to the change in lifestyle. Itelson has become more involved with his daughter's school and has enjoyed hanging around the neighborhood.

"An added plus is that now I only wear ties occasionally," he summed up. "You know, Hawaiians live longer than any other group of people in the United States. My theory is that the cause may be the lack of neckties there."

To Louise Whitlock of Valley Street, wearing a tie might be acceptable—if it's for the right job. Whitlock just ended a five-month unemployment stint Feb. 3, when Wells Fargo Bank hired her as an investment specialist. She points out that "after the first of the year, things picked up" in her job search. "January is traditionally one of the best months for hiring. But possibly the economy is improving too."

However, according to Whitlock, one of the more telling barometers of the current white-collar employment crunch is the activity (or lack thereof) of employment recruiters, or "headhunters," as they're more commonly known.

"I've been unemployed before, because I often worked for smaller, start-up companies," she said. "Compared to the last time I was unemployed, this time the headhunters were doing nothing to recruit workers, which translates into the obvious fact that they weren't getting work themselves."

Many of Whitlock's associates over the past few years have wound up in lesser-paying jobs or have had to accept positions beneath their level of expertise. "People have had to take what they can get," she said.

Whitlock considers herself lucky to have landed a job she likes much more than the one she held before being laid off. But during her five months of pounding the pavement, it was strictly touch and go.

"It was very emotionally trying," she said. "When you're unemployed, you begin to question your worth. Your self-esteem suffers." □

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Jeopardy-Winner May Advance To Tournament of Champions!

Continued from Page 1

"It has been a lifelong dream of mine to be on *Jeopardy*," he says. "This is the only game show I've ever watched, so getting on the show was very exciting for me."

For the past 11 years, the bearded, 6-foot-7½-inch redhead has worked as a sales representative for Bantam-Doubleday-Dell Publishing Company. In his off-hours, he is a collector of children's books, and often moonlights as Walter the Giant Storyteller, conducting readings for children at local libraries, bookstores, and schools.

On a recent rainy evening, Mayes basked in the electronic glow in his living room. Remote control in hand, he sat in an armchair, reviewing the videotapes of his *Jeopardy* appearances Jan. 15 to 20. He paused occasionally during our conversation to explain the finer points of the game to this *Jeopardy*-philistine.

"This was a great Daily Double [double your money if you get the correct answer]."

"I was being such a ham here."

"I adored this contestant. She would have won if she had wagered more aggressively."

"I took four years of Latin. I should have done better with the Word Origins category."

Mayes is particularly embarrassed about his answer to a seemingly simple question on the name of the inventor of "the eyeglasses that have half a lens for near vision and half a lens for distant vision."

"What is bifocal?" he answered. Sorry, Walter, the correct response was, "Who is Benjamin Franklin?"

"No one who knows me will let me forget that," he says. "When that show ran, I got calls on my machine saying, 'Who is bifocal?! Give me a break!' That's the thing about this show. The mistakes you make really haunt you."

Mayes auditioned in early November, while in Los Angeles on business. Along with 75 other wannabe contestants, he reported to the *Jeopardy* studio to take a notoriously difficult 50-question quiz. (Only 15 percent pass.)

After *Jeopardy* staffers scored the tests, Mayes and eight others were asked to stay for an interview and to participate in a simulated game of *Jeopardy*. An hour and a half later, they were dismissed, and told that they would be notified within two months if they'd made the final cut. Of 20,000 people who audition for *Jeopardy* each year, only 400 are selected as contestants.

In mid-November, Mayes received a call inviting him to appear on the show

just three days later. Contestants are typically given a month's notice, but Mayes was asked to fill in for a contestant who had unexpectedly dropped out.

"In retrospect, this worked out great, because I didn't have time to fret," he says.

Jeopardy tapes five shows daily. Mayes taped three appearances his first day on the set, and the remaining two the second day.

"During the first game, all I wanted to do was not embarrass myself," he recalls. "After I won the first game, I didn't have anything to prove anymore. Games two, three, and four were a piece of cake."

By game five, however, the pressure was on. Mayes had a shot at becoming a five-time, undefeated champion—those winners are assured slots in the Tournament of Champions. Unfortunately, he came up against a "guy who knew the answer to practically everything, who was very fast on the huzzer."

"I started to freak," Mayes says. "I looked at the scoreboard and saw I was really trailing. I started to buzz into questions I didn't even know the answer to."

He lost big time, but says he still had a good time. "The *Jeopardy* people are so good about telling everybody to have fun," he says, "that very rarely do you get competitive people on the show who are trying to psych each other out. Most people who go on the show with the notion of winning at the expense of having fun don't win. They screw up somewhere along the way."

One of the high points came during the

third show, when host Alex Trebek commented on Mayes' gregarious, supportive behavior toward his challengers. He said Mayes was "a credit to our program."

"It blew me away," says Mayes. "Alex never does that. I gotta say Alex really liked me. He was very solicitous toward me and very pleased when I won."

Although he won't receive his cash prize until April, Mayes has already decided that the money will be used toward the purchase of a house—for himself, wife Joan Vigliotta, and their 2½-year-old son, Anthony.

"We're going to try to do something sensible with it," he says. "We're not going to blow it on a trip to Tahiti or buy \$40,000 worth of comic books, although I'd love to do that."

In addition to the cash, Mayes received a \$695 watch as a consolation prize, along with a variety of "departing gifts," including a large supply of Gordon's frozen shrimp entrees and Centrum vitamins.

"The *Jeopardy* people have a joke about contestants getting a lifetime supply of Lee Press-On Nails, but I didn't get any of those," he laughs.

As for the Tournament of Champions, Mayes will have to wait until *Jeopardy* airs its final show of the season in August to find out whether he's earned a place in the competition. Although taping has been completed for this year, the staff isn't letting on about the outcome.

"They want to build suspense and keep people watching," Mayes explains.

That's certainly no problem in his case. Now where are my Benjamin Franklins? □

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City to Untidy Dog Owners: Please Behave!

By Michele Lynn

According to the workers who tend our local parks, Noe Valley residents are currently in the doghouse.

Why? Because neighborhood dog owners are either allowing their animals to roam free or flouting the city's "pooper-scooper" law, which requires them to clean up after their pets.

City gardener Sam Nieto, who works at both Noe Courts and Douglass Park, called Community Police Officer Lois Perillo in January, after being approached by residents who wanted to know who enforced the pooper-scooper law.

Even though there are signs advising humans that their four-legged friends are not allowed, Nieto says, he was compelled to report to Perillo that "dog feces in the parks is getting out of control. Parents can't let their kids run around in Noe Courts because of it. Kids are finding dog feces in the sandboxes," he lamented.

Perillo responded by increasing her patrols of both Noe Courts, at 24th and Douglass, and two-tiered Douglass Park, west of Douglass Street from 26th to 27th.

"I'm contacting as many dog owners as possible, asking them to network with other dog owners, and to be responsible for their dogs. I'm also encouraging them to use the dog run area," she said, referring to Douglass Park's official dog outlet, located on the cliffs above the ball field at 27th Street.

Perillo notes that at Dolores Park, near Church and 18th, there's another legal dog run area, on the north side of the two-square-block park, where dogs can mingle *sans* leash.

But Gloria Koch-Gonzalez, the Recreation and Park Department field supervisor who manages all three parks, says she's observed "plenty of dogs on the wrong side of the tracks" at Dolores Park as well.

Says Koch-Gonzalez, "The dogs are on what we like to think of as the quiet side of the park, where the children's playground is, and where people practice tai-chi.

"Last month," she adds, "an older man who was practicing tai-chi was bitten on his back by a Doberman mix. Luckily, he



These dog owners are holding up their responsibility for disposing of dogdoo at Upper Douglass Park, but not everyone is so considerate.
PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

had on a lot of sweatshirts, so his skin wasn't broken."

Koch-Gonzalez emphasizes that the Recreation Department "would like to have a park that's good for everyone, but dogs are making it difficult. We're losing our other park patrons because dogs have the run of the place. There should be room for everything in these parks. They're big enough."

In the past year, gardeners have been attacked by untended dogs at Noe Courts, Upper Noe Playground, and Douglass Park, Koch-Gonzalez reports.

And Officer Perillo, who often patrols on a bicycle, was recently attacked by a dog that was running loose. "I growled back at the dog, which scared him away," Perillo recalls. "And I bellowed, 'Why isn't that dog on a leash?' But by the time I turned around on my bike, the owner was gone."

Perillo points out that "even the mildest of animals can frighten people," and she notes that dogs who are allowed to run free naturally contribute to the poop

problem. "Dogs should not be off-leash at all, especially on 24th Street."

All three city employees stress that the actions of a few can harm many. Koch-Gonzalez says, "If people were more responsible, there wouldn't be so many restrictions on dog owners."

Perillo adds, "Those who don't act responsibly, either out of ignorance of the law or out of lack of consideration for the other person, should think about how their actions affect someone else."

Take Nieto, for example.

"Gardeners are trying to do a job for the public. Most of us take a lot of pride in our work," Nieto says. "But when we see dog owners who let their dogs defecate and urinate on plants, and not clean up after their pets, we say to ourselves, why even bother?"

Nieto explains that many pet owners mistakenly believe that urine and feces are fertilizers, when, in fact, they harm the plants.

"I have thought about writing a book with people's excuses: 'Oh, I always pick

it up.' 'It [the feces] is just a little too hot now, and I want to let it cool,' or 'My dog is so small and only leaves just a little,'" Nieto intones.

"Now," he says, "I carry paper towels and give them to people who say, 'I don't have anything to put it in.'"

For Nieto, the mindful pet owner is a pleasure to encounter. "There are a number of people who use the parks regularly who do clean up. I thank the dog owners who pick up after their pets. They're shocked when I do, and ask, 'Doesn't everyone?'"

For her part, Officer Perillo hopes neighborhood residents will stop relying on Nieto's generosity and good manners, and start carrying their own paper or plastic.

She says she's aware that Douglass Park has become a frisbee-dog heaven, but adds that "technically it's a no-dog park, except for the dog run area."

Now, with complaints on the rise, she's afraid she may have to exercise a tighter rein on both dogs and their owners. □

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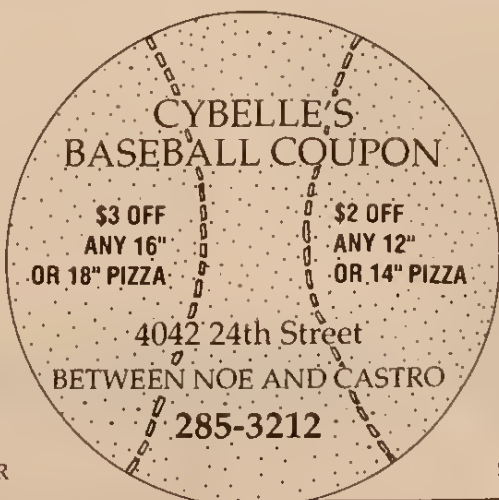
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Two Churches Give Sanctuary To Classical Music Series

By Jeff Kaliss

With the unassuming tranquility of a chamber ensemble, classical music is making itself manifest in our neighborhood churches.

Bethany Methodist Church, at Sanchez and Clipper streets, is continuing its little-known occasional concert series with a March 29 performance by harpsichordist Katherine Roberts Perl.

And a few blocks further north at Sanchez and 23rd, the Noe Valley Ministry initiates its own classical music series this month. Called Noe Valley Sunday Afternoons, the series debuts March 8 with the Twin Pines Woodwind Quintet.

Musician Katherine Perl says she was delighted to discover Bethany about a quarter of a block from her Clipper Street home. "I've been looking for acoustically wonderful places to play."

Perl has previously appeared at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, the de Young Museum, and several galleries, and finds that Bethany's sanctuary space "has a warm, not quite dry, but clear sound, because of the wood ceiling. And it has a nice shape, and beautiful stained glass windows."

Her March 29 program will "mostly honor J.S. Bach, because it's the month of his birthday." The remainder will feature 17th and 18th century compositions by Louis Couperin and Jacques Duphly.

To set up the performance, Perl contacted Don Frueh, who's been music director at Bethany for three years and has himself performed there on organ.

Frueh presents a handful of concerts in Bethany's sanctuary each year—always scheduled on Sundays at 3 p.m.—and rents the adjoining hall to the Winds of Freedom (an offshoot of the Gay Free-

dom Day Band) on Tuesday evenings every other month.

The Winds of Freedom play "all kinds of stuff from Sousa marches to Bach chorales," Frueh says. But he points out, "Kathy is our first 'big name.'"

Karen Heather is Don Frueh's counterpart over at the Noe Valley Ministry. Like Frueh, she came to her Sunday Afternoons series from the perspective of a performer. Several months after becoming the Ministry's building manager last year, Heather performed with her Miraloma Piano Trio in the church's second-story space, which for many years has been the site of jazz, world music, and variety acts featured in the Noe Valley Music Series.

"Somehow the process became imbued with a special quality, because of the space," recounts Heather, a pianist. "Some spaces are difficult for chamber music, you feel as if the sound dies somewhere, and you may hear yourself, but you don't hear the other musicians very well."

"The musicians all commented that this is a wonderful place in which to communicate... the ambience of it, the religious symbolism, the art on the wall, it all enters in."

Heather stresses, however, that the Ministry's new concert series will be informal. "I'm encouraging the musicians not to wear tails and tuxes, and encouraging the audience to come as they are."

And she is hopeful that her schedule, set for one Sunday a month at 2 p.m., will attract a Noe Valley walk-in crowd. "People can go to brunch or do their laundry or sit out in front of a coffee shop, and then come here for a concert."

This month they'll find the Twin Pines Woodwind Quintet, which has appeared



Clipper Street resident Katherine Roberts Perl will move her harpsichord down the sidewalk for a concert March 29 at Bethany Church—one of two neighborhood venues for classical music. PHOTO BY ROMY HARNES

with the San Francisco Opera, Ballet, Symphony, and elsewhere since 1968. "They'll do a whole variety of music, from Bach to French contemporary," notes Heather. "And they're not a staid group; they're very interactive with the audience."

Future dates include an April 12 concert by San Francisco Symphony bassist Steve Tramontozzi, who'll be joined by cellist Jennifer Culp and pianist Justin Blasdale, both members of the Dunsmuir Piano Quartet. "They'll play music which was written for cello duo, but will be played here by cello and bass, and a Rachmaninoff piano and bass sonata," says Heather.

"Then the St. Petersburg Trio will perform on May 3. Emil Milland, the cellist, is a Noe Valley resident with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. And Leonid and Natasha Igudesman are the violinist and violist. They're from Leningrad,

which is now St. Petersburg. They've played with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra."

While the Ministry will charge a modest admission price (\$5-\$7), Frueh at Bethany is asking only a "free-will offering" for his upcoming concerts.

After Perl, he says, "We'll have a two-keyboard concert, probably towards the end of April, where a friend and I will play various combinations of organ, piano, and harpsichord. And then a tenor, Andy Einkauf, is going to do a concert of spiritual and light classical music at the end of June." Each date will begin with a short verbal presentation about the history of the music and the instruments.

For more information on the two series, call Heather at the Noe Valley Ministry at 282-2317, and Frueh at Bethany at 647-8393 or 431-6853. □



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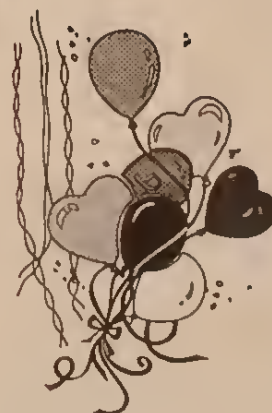
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POLICE BEAT

Officer Lois Perillo covers a beat that stretches from Army and Valencia to Grand View and 21st Street. To reach her, contact the Mission Station Community Police Officer Program (CPOP) at 647-2767.



PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

Rash of Store Burglaries

By Lois Perillo

My part of Noe Valley has one of the lowest burglary rates in San Francisco.

But in January, Noe Valley merchants suffered an upswing in break-ins. In an area with fewer than six commercial burglaries in two years, there were three burglaries and one arson (which appeared to be a failed, if not stupid, attempted burglary).

A cafe, flower shop, restaurant, and laundry fell victim to the criminals. They all had window and door damage, and two lost petty cash. In two instances alarms foiled the thieves.

I've visited nearly all my Noe Valley businesses and have done security inspections. However, I feel that even one burglary is too many for our neighborhood. Here are some steps that merchants and residents should take to reduce their susceptibility:

- Secure all windows and doors. I don't mean you must live in "Fort Knox," but you might want to insert steel pegs or install bars on rear windows, or apply "security film" (a transparency that prevents the glass from breaking from its frame) on either home or car windows. On doors, use deadbolts with at least a 1½-inch throw bolt. For detailed advice, talk to your local locksmith.

- Leave your doorway or porch light on. Consider installing motion-detector

lights in driveways or back yards. (Don't worry, your animals—with the exception of a horse or Great Dane—won't activate them.)

- Tell your neighbors when you change your schedule or go on vacation.
- Remove all ladders from your yard or alley, and secure all your tools. (Don't give a burglar a leg up!)
- Walk around the inside and outside of your home or business, and look for weaknesses.

If you need help, security brochures are available in the lobby of Mission Station, 1240 Valencia St., and at 3-J's Deli, at 24th and Vicksburg streets.

December Robbery Update

The white Chevrolet Impala, driven by two black male robbery suspects in a series of street robberies in December (see last month's "Police Beat"), is still out there. The Impala was used in a 2 a.m. robbery of two men at Army and Church in early February.

I'm working with an inspector in the Robbery Detail to identify the suspects. So keep a lookout. If you see the car, note the license plate, place and time, and phone me with the info at 647-2767.

Don't Toy with Replica Guns

Last month, Chris Arce at the Pantry was robbed at gunpoint (see story, page 1). Although a replica gun was used, that did not diminish the fear felt by Chris, who believed the gun was real (and operable). It does highlight the potential danger around possessing and exhibiting replica guns.

Parents, please ascertain that your children do NOT have facsimile or replica guns, which the law defines as "any device which might be perceived to be a real firearm," excluding those devices that "because of their distinct color, exaggerated size, or other design feature, cannot be perceived as a firearm."

If you're in doubt, take away the questionable toy gun and let the child's imagination work to construct one of wood.

The law applies to adults as well. In

Steve Ratto is the community police officer for "upper" Noe Valley. His turf extends from Sanchez and Army to 30th and Mission streets. He can be reached at Ingleside's CPOP number, 333-3433.



PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Strong-Arm Attacks Have Subsided

By Steve Ratto

Hello, everyone, this is Steve Ratto, your friendly police officer on patrol. I hope your holidays were happy. I would like to bring you up to date on the current crime stats on my Noe Valley beat for the months of December and January.

As you may already know from reading last month's *Voice*, in the Church and 30th Street vicinity we experienced a series of strong-arm robberies (six during December) committed by the same person, described as a Latin male, 20-26 years of age, 5-foot-8, stocky build, moustache, wearing a hooded navy blue sweatshirt. The man threatened his women victims with a knife, and demanded their purses.

In three of the strong-arm incidents, the suspect used a stolen vehicle, which was later recovered by police. The bad news is that he is still at large, but the good news is no additional robberies of this type have taken place during January

California, everyone is prohibited from publicly drawing or exhibiting a replica firearm.

Many Thanks to Good Citizens

Kudos to French Tulip owner Ryan Quinlan, who wrestled with the Pantry robber and bought the police valuable time in apprehending the suspect.

Also, a personal thank you to the two men who came to my aid in subduing a drunk at the First Ining bar.

See you on patrol. □

and the first two weeks of February.

If you are approached by someone demanding your purse or wallet, yell for help, but do not resist. Your life is much more valuable.

There were seven burglaries of residences and commercial buildings, mostly on Church or Mission streets, during December, but the stats appear to have gone down since the holidays.

However, auto theft is high in the area. I arrested an 18-year-old male just the other day. He was carrying a flashlight, a screwdriver, and a dent-puller, which is used to pull out the ignitions of vehicles. At the time of his arrest, he was loitering in the area of Duncan and Tiffany streets. I could only guess that he was looking for a car to steal.

I have been seeing an increase in auto alarms and steering wheel locks, such as "The Club," and these devices are effective in thwarting thieves. But if you are going to park your vehicle on the street in San Francisco, you must secure your cars (lock the doors), and keep valuables out of sight.

It has been brought to my attention that the stop sign at Sanchez and Valley streets is not being observed by motorists. So I'll give you fair warning now, I will be issuing tickets for failure to make a complete stop at an arterial stop sign.

Also, there are two new "No Left Turn" signs in the area. One is at 29th Street and San Jose Avenue, and the other is at 30th Street and San Jose, where the J-car now goes. These signs say, "No left turn between 3 and 6 p.m., except Saturdays and Sundays." Take heed, folks.

One more thing, several neighbors have voiced concern over vehicles being illegally parked on the sidewalk. So I will be ticketing these cars—even if they are in driveways—first because it's illegal, but, secondly, because it's hard for pedestrians, particularly senior citizens and the blind and handicapped, to pass around these obstacles. The third reason is that cars leave oil residue on the sidewalk. I hope you will cooperate with me in the future.

On an unrelated issue: I was disappointed at the low turnout at the community blood drive at St. Paul's Church Saturday, Feb. 22. Hope to see you there at the next one. It's important. □

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Alvarado Hires New Principal Mid-Year

By Steve Steinberg

A new principal, determined that a school should be a community, has taken over the leadership of Alvarado Elementary School, 625 Douglass St.

Sandra Leigh last month became the third person to serve as principal of the local grade school in the past year and a half. She replaced Aurora Maramag, who left Alvarado to become principal of a San Francisco preschool.

A committee of parents, teachers, and school district personnel selected Leigh from among 14 candidates.

Originally from Wisconsin, Leigh, 42, lives with her partner and 11-year-old daughter on Potrero Hill. Her daughter attends Horace Mann Middle School.

Leigh brings almost 20 years of experience in the San Francisco school system to her new job. Throughout that tenure, her faith in the public schools has continued unabated. "I believe in public education. I believe it can work."

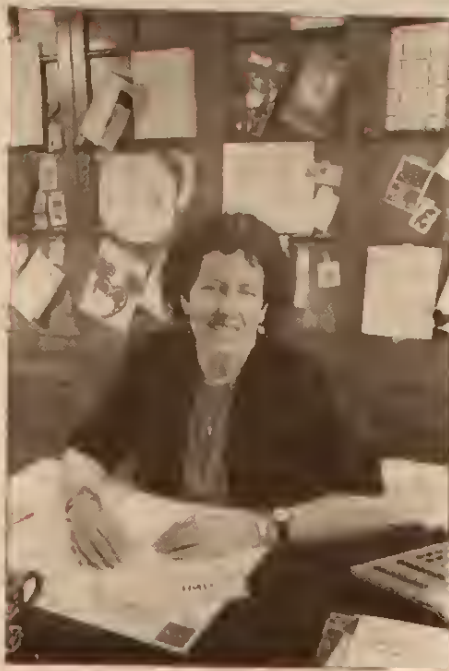
Leigh has worked as a children's center teacher and as a reading and resource specialist, teaching kids with learning disabilities.

For the last nine years, she was a teacher at San Francisco Community School, an alternative elementary school in the Excelsior District. During the past three years, she served as head teacher of San Francisco Community, which has no formal administrator, but rather rotates leadership among the teachers.

While working in this capacity, Leigh obtained her administrative credential from the Urban Institute, a prestigious teacher leadership program at San Francisco State University.

Leigh's years at San Francisco Community School were crucial in developing her philosophy of education. She says the school cultivated a large degree of parent involvement, plus "a unique vision of education that is student-centered and teacher empowering." The end result was a "shared vision" among all elements at the school—parents, teachers, and students—as to how the school should be run and what educational direction it should take.

Leigh believes that that kind of linkage is essential to a proper education in the modern world. "We are preparing students to interact in a global, interconnected, diverse, world community—as prepared citizens."



New principal Sandra Leigh comes to Alvarado from the San Francisco Community School, where she served as head teacher for the past three years.

PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

As Alvarado's principal, Leigh sees herself as a "facilitator," providing guidance on programs that are collectively formulated. Although she may have her own specific ideas for change, at this stage she prefers "not to be perceived as having a preconceived agenda."

But she has high praise for both teachers and parents at her new school. She says the 28-member teacher staff is "extremely dedicated," while school parents deserve much credit for the hard work they have put in this year.

Although she feels Alvarado has an "incredible amount of potential," Leigh would like the school to have a greater sense of itself as a community. She realizes that this goal may be difficult, given that 80 percent of the school's 467 youngsters are bused in and very few students come from the immediate neighborhood. Still, Leigh plans to increase the participation of "outlying" parents and make better use of the resources at hand. "A community is not just a geographical neighborhood," she says.

Because Alvarado receives special court-ordered funding to promote integration and academic achievement, Leigh is under a certain amount of pressure to see that her students' test scores rise. However, in her view, one of the real purposes of school is to give students "productive skills, which test scores may or may not reflect." Eventually, she would like to see a more valid "assessment of the students' skills."

Leigh has high hopes for Alvarado and expects to be around to see the school's potential come to fruition. "I plan on staying at Alvarado for a long time." □

Irish Set to Break Out The Corned Beef and Cabbage

By Jeff Kaliss

"There's something special in Irish music," declares writer and musician Eddie Stack. "It just gets to the soul of everything."

When Stack emigrated from Galway a few years ago, "some of the best sessions of music were happening in Noe Valley and the Mission, at places like the Cork 'n' Bottle," he recalls. "It was like a pub in the west of Ireland."

This spirit is raised once a year in honor of Ireland's patron saint, Patrick, but this year's St. Patrick's Day (March 17) falls on a somewhat inconvenient Tuesday. As a result, Brendan Daly, bartender and co-owner of the Cork 'n' Bottle at 4037 24th St. (648-3256) will host his celebration on Sunday, March 15.

"I'm having it the same day that they're having the parade," explains Daly. "I'll have the food out, the corned beef and cabbage, and music probably, but I haven't decided who as yet. We might be able to convince Peter back there to sing," he laughs, indicating his colleague behind the bar.

St. Philip's, at 725 Diamond St. (282-0141), will get things started a day earlier, on Saturday the 14th in the church's large hall. "The bar opens at 6:30 p.m., and dinner is from 7:30 to 8:30," announces Father Michael Healy, a native of Cork (the town and county in Ireland). "And there will be a little Guinness going into that too."

Father Healy points out, however, that St. Paddy's is a more sober religious occasion in the homeland, and he notes that his church in Noe Valley will celebrate

mass at 8 a.m. on March 17.

From the perspective of a bartender, Tommy Basso of Noe's tavern, at the corner of 24th and Church streets (282-4007), declares that St. Patrick's is "considered the best day of the year." He promises that chef Gaetano Basso will be serving the traditional meal "with all the trimmings" from "at least 12 o'clock on" on the 17th.

At the Dubliner, 3838 24th St. (826-2279), co-owner Vince Hogan will start the corned beef and cabbage a couple of hours earlier that morning. "Actually, it's not eaten in Ireland at all," he laughs. "It's like the Mexican taco, an American invention. The only corned beef they have in Ireland is imported from Argentina in a can."

But Hogan plans a genuinely Celtic ambience all day, with live pipers and dancing in the cieli (pronounced "kay-lee") style, which requires a straight back and nimble feet. This will be performed by schoolchildren, including the 9-year-old daughter of loyal customer Liz Maloney.

Wandering musicians (including Stack and his bouzouki) are likely to stop by all three Noe Valley venues, offering a spontaneous assortment of reels, jigs, and slides.

"There are some guys who go into the Cork 'n' Bottle, they've been here 40 years, but you'd think they just got off the plane this morning," says Stack. "It's very strange. Ireland has never left them. Some people have made big changes in their lives, but these guys have kept our soul together." □



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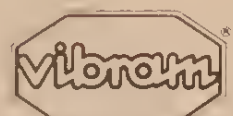


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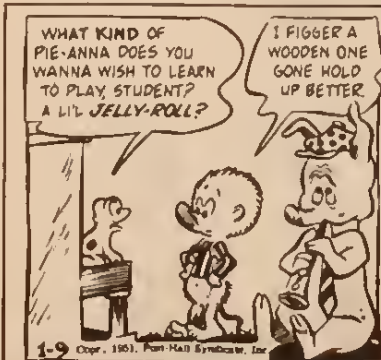
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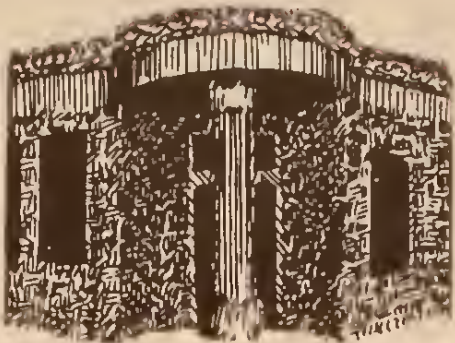
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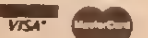
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Graffiti Gets a Going-Over On Fair Oaks Street

By Lisa D'Antonio

Until recently, customers passing through the sky-blue doors at Al & M Grocery, on the corner of 23rd and Fair Oaks streets, couldn't help but notice the graffiti covering the storefront.

But thanks to a Fair Oaks residential association and four neighborhood teenagers—Jose Martinez, Herman Martinez, Robert Conway, and Jason Cadena—wall art no longer rules at Al & M. On Jan. 11, the teens, armed with paintbrushes, restored the market's walls to their original color.

"We did it because we don't like graffiti on the walls. It's ugly," said Jose Martinez. "People who do it don't care about other people's property."

The project was organized by Kevin Brickley, president of the Fair Oaks Neighborhood Association.

Brickley had observed a substantial increase in graffiti on both homes and storefronts over the last two years. So in December, Brickley went to Jamestown

Community Center, 180 Fair Oaks St. (home of the Fair Oaks Neighborhood Association's youth program), and enlisted the aid of the teenagers.

A professional house painter, Brickley supplied the tarps and paintbrushes, while the neighborhood association raised the money for paint.

"The time commitment [in this case, approximately two days] and the work involved in removing graffiti makes kids think about respecting people's property," he noted.

But Al & M Grocery was just the beginning. Brickley and his crew are already planning to tackle the graffiti-splattered Oakley house at 200 Fair Oaks, "as soon as we have another weekend with clear skies," says Brickley. After that, any defaced home or business within the boundaries of Guerrero and Dolores and 20th and 26th streets is a potential target for clean-up. (Give him a call at 285-4938.)

"The graffiti project is an opportunity for people to see that teenagers can make



In January, teens (left to right) Robert Conway, Jose Martinez, and Jason Cadena were out in force, attacking graffiti on the walls of a Ma and Pa store at Fair Oaks and 23rd streets. Their sponsor, the Fair Oaks Neighborhood Association, plans more anti-graffiti forays in the future. PHOTO BY KEVIN BRICKLEY

a contribution to the community," said Brickley, adding that he expects teen interest and involvement to increase with time.

Al & M. co-owner Moon Gin is delighted with the youths' first effort. "I am very happy with the work that has been done to my store. It is very beautiful." □

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Israeli Peace Act

If you want to become a part of the Arab/Israeli peace dialogue, mark your calendars for Sunday, March 22, 8 p.m. That's when Partners for Peace will present an evening with Emily Shihadeh and Yishai Hope, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Shihadeh, a Palestinian from Ramallah, Israel, is a comedian and activist who will perform a piece from her show, "Grapes and Figs Are in Season." Hope, an Israeli from a kibbutz nearby, is a carpenter "with a passion for music and harmony" who believes that emotional healing can help put an end to the country's cycle of violence.

Each will share stories of turning personal swords into plowshares, and the floor will be open to audience discussion afterwards. Tickets are \$5 at the door. For further information, call 282-2317.

Safe Sex on TV in Castro

The window of Cliff's Variety Store, at 479 Castro St., is the site for a new video and slide presentation on AIDS prevention, created by the Storefront AIDS Video Education (SAVE) project and sponsored by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

The video, which plays simultaneously on five television monitors, and the slide show will both run 24 hours a day through mid-March. Speakers above the window deliver sound to the street.

Different segments focus on the reasons why many people have relapsed into practicing unsafe sex, and include interviews with men discussing their feelings about AIDS prevention.

"We hope," says program director Les Pappas, "that the SAVE project will reach thousands of gay and bisexual men with timely messages about HIV prevention. What better place to reach them than in the heart of the Castro?"

In addition to the SAVE project, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation co-sponsors—along with the AIDS Legal Referral Panel—resource workshops for

SHORT TAKES



Circus wannabes like Josh Roth can learn to perform balancing acts in the teen apprenticeship program now being offered by Make*A*Circus.

people who have tested HIV-positive.

The meetings are free, and are held the last Wednesday of each month. Topics include medical issues—particularly

how to access early medical care and local HIV resources—legal issues, insurance and benefits questions, and advice on finding support groups or counselors.

To preregister for the workshops, which are held at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 25 Van Ness Ave. (Third Floor), from 5:30 to 8 p.m., call Lou Valla, 864-5855, ext. 2511, or ask for the on-duty social worker.

Teens Clown Around

Local teens can earn money by running away with the circus this summer—and they don't even have to leave home.

Make*A*Circus, a free outdoor circus theater, is accepting applications through April 21 for its Teen Apprenticeship Program. Applicants 14 and up can participate in 10 weeks of free circus skills classes that start on April 21. The classes include juggling, tumbling, stilt-walking, clowning, face-painting, crowd control, and working with children.

At the end of the 10-week workshop, five teens will be chosen to receive summer jobs, and to perform in Bay Area parks with the circus' Summer Festival Day Tour.

For further information and applications, call Elaine Shen, at 776-8477, or write to Make*A*Circus, Fort Mason, Building C, Room 200, San Francisco, CA 94123.

Pub Poetry

A poetry reading series is brewing at the 3300 Club, located at 29th and Mission streets.

(The bar was founded in 1907, and according to owner Nancy Keane, its turn-of-the-century interior is filled with memorabilia from the days when the "lower Noe Valley" neighborhood was an Irish working-class enclave.)

Keane, who's also a writer, painter, and percussionist, says she wants to create a North Beach-style poetry series, and she has already lined up a few poets, including Jane Burda, Geri Di Giorno, Lee Hopkins, Judy Stedman, William Talcott, and Lynn Watson.

The first reading will take place on Monday, March 30, at 7 p.m., and will

Continued on Page 19

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Continued from Page 17

be followed by an open mike session. Those wishing to participate should send copies of their work to Lee Hopkins, P.O. Box 460342, San Francisco, CA 94146.

For more information, contact Hopkins at 824-0835.

AIDS Quilt Returns

Hoffman Avenue resident Sue Baelen is the chairperson of the publicity committee for *An Event in 3 Acts*, a nationally touring AIDS fundraiser that will be in San Francisco March 6-17. And she wants the whole neighborhood to know about it.

The first act of *An Event in 3 Acts* is the musical *Heart Strings*, which will be performed at the Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St., from Friday, March 6, through Sunday, March 8. *Heart Strings*, says Baelen, is a series of "musical vignettes, featuring people talking about life with HIV and AIDS. They have some great, uplifting pieces. My favorite is 'Trojan Women,' where three women dress up as Trojan soldiers and talk about the virtues of using condoms."

Act II will be the free public display of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, at the San Francisco Fashion Center, 699 Eighth St. The quilt is an international memorial, established in San Francisco in 1987, and it will be exhibited from Friday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m. (opening ceremony), until Tuesday, March 17, at 5 p.m. (closing ceremony).

The third act will depend on audience participation—it is, simply, a call to action, encouraging people to help stem the spread of AIDS, and to help care for those living with the disease.

"Everyone in Noe Valley has been affected by AIDS," notes Baelen. "But you gain so much by helping out. For me, it was a way to deal with losing so many of my friends. And I've also realized that, by volunteering, I strengthen my ties to my neighborhood. I met nine or 10 peo-

SHORT TAKES

ple, within a 15-block radius of my home, who I worked with on the NAMES Project."

Anyone needing program, ticket, or volunteer information should call 442-2205.

Mining Senior Gold

The San Francisco Commission on Aging is putting out a call to merchants, to take part in its Senior Discount Gold Card program.

The program, which currently serves over 140,000 senior citizens in California, encourages merchants to establish a special discount rate (from 5 to 25 percent) for older persons, who often become regular and loyal customers.

There is no charge to merchants or seniors who participate in the program. Those who would like to get on the bandwagon should contact Martha Maher, at 626-1033, for an application and more information. A new Senior Discount Card Merchants Directory is now in preparation, and updates to the directory are made every three to six months.

Program for Gay Teens

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services is sponsoring a 3½-month opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and other "questioning young people," to learn about community health and leadership, through the Lambda Youth and Family Empowerment (LYFE) program.

The purpose of the program, called "Change the World," is to provide young people under 21 years old with information about health issues, such as substance abuse and HIV/AIDS, as well as some tools for grassroots organizing.

Applications for the workshops, which will run from March 19 to June 25, on Thursdays from 4 to 6:30 p.m., will be accepted through March 6. Up to 15 youth will be enrolled. For more details, call 565-7681.

Women Make Movies

The Roxie Cinema presents a six-day

festival of dramatic features, shorts, and documentaries by and about women, to mark the 20th anniversary of Women Make Movies, the New York-based distributor of woman-oriented films and videos.

The festival, which runs from Friday, March 27, through Wednesday, April 1, will kick off with Trinh T. Minh-ha's award-winning *Shoot for the Contents*, a poetic examination of allegorical storytelling in China.

Other films will include *A Place of Rage*, which features interviews with Angela Davis and Alice Walker; *Khush*, a weaving of interviews, Indian art, dance, and dream sequences; and the German epic *Johanna D'Arc of Mongolia*, starring the late great French actress Delphine Seyrig.

For a complete schedule of showtimes, contact the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St., at 863-1087.

Community Music

The San Francisco Community Music Center is a melting pot of music classes—from group classes in Chinese and Latin music, to private voice and instrumental instruction, to children's choruses and a community orchestra.

On Friday, March 27, from 3 to 7 p.m., and on Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the center will register new students for its 1992 spring quarter classes at two San Francisco locations—544 Capp St. in the Mission District, and 741 30th Ave. in the Richmond. Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

There is no tuition for participation in the community choruses or orchestra. Tuition for all other programs is based on a sliding scale. Adult students and parents of students may also enroll in the center's work-study program.

For more information, call 647-6015.

This month's "Short Takes" were written and compiled by Jane Underwood.

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Two At-Home Workers Seek Right Livelihood

Desktop Publisher Designs with Dharma in Mind

By B.L. Green

A year ago Noe Valley painter Paul Seaton felt the financial pinch common to many full-time but as yet unrecognized artists. His solution was to go into business for himself, at home in his Noe Street flat.

With no previous computer experience, the 33-year-old Seaton taught himself graphics and publishing software, then launched his enterprise: Dharma Desktop & Design.

As the name of his business implies, Seaton is a follower of Tibetan Buddhism. What cuts through both his work and his art is the Buddhist concept of "dharma," defined as the observance of certain moral principles or, at its simplest, "virtue."

"It's not just being virtuous," Seaton says. "Dharma is about life—giving up certain ways of being for other ways. It's selflessness, not selfishness."

Dharma is also Seaton's way of nurturing clients.

"I'm not your typical businessman," he says. "I mean, I tend toward developing unique relationships with my clients. I call it 'tea and talk.'"

So far, the approach seems to be working. This winter, Seaton designed and computer-generated the book *Bloodletting: A Mind at Midlife*, an autobiographical work by Berkeley poet, teacher, and performer Lois Silverstein. A blend of literary styles, the book turns on Silverstein's love-hate relationship with her mother, who died of cancer. Seaton's contribution was to create a line-by-line, page-by-page form to compliment the author's powerful prose.

Several smaller projects preceded this one. At his own expense, Seaton produced 50 copies of *30 Poems*, a volume of quirky, engaging verse by Noe Valley artist and writer David Hallstrom. ("If you do not notice particulars," one poem goes, "your abstractions will have no weight.") Seaton published Hallstrom not only to gain more computer graphics experience, he says, but because he admired the writer's free spirit and creativity ("David has volumes of poetry in his head, and he owns a lot of Donne and Shakespeare, which he knows by heart").

Before *30 Poems*, Seaton published a volume of his own verse, *Ready for Freedom*. Often as brief as haiku, the poems speak reflectively: "When you find yourself at dawn/Angry with the chirping of birds/It's time to quit your job." (In truth, Seaton once felt this way about an unhappy employment situation, and he did quit, he says.)

Seaton also designed and printed a large broadside of Walt Whitman's 1865 poem *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd*. The poet's verse flows in shapely black type next to a copy of an



Paul Seaton has the soul of an artist—his acrylic painting hangs on the wall of his Noe Street office—but he makes his money as a computer-based publisher and graphic designer. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

old photograph of Abraham Lincoln, whose death deeply touched Whitman and inspired this passionate poem.

Less literary endeavors have ranged from a freelance assignment to help



This cover was designed by Paul Seaton for an autobiographical work that he desktop-published for Berkeley writer Lois Silverstein.

create graphics for Ford and Pepsi-Cola ads, to producing a newsletter for neighborhood acupuncturist and Chinese herbologist Larry Forsberg. He's also worked for IBM's corporate graphics center downtown, and has produced Tibetan Buddhist Center newsletters, as well as theater posters.

To start his new business, Seaton invested \$4,000 in hardware and software (Pagemaker and Corel Draw are his favorite programs). Using a PC-compati-

ble, which he built, and a Macintosh SE, he tries to accurately convert his own and his clients' visions to the printed page.

"Because I work on my own schedule and with my own philosophy, my clients can have real interaction with the computer through me," he says. "I get the client involved on the creative level, and expand their ideas as need be."

For Seaton, Dharma Desktop is just the latest stage of an artistic and free-spirited life.

A San Franciscan off and on for more than 20 years, Seaton grew up among teachers, artists, and freethinkers on the East Coast. In the late '60s, his family journeyed west, and at one point helped start a commune in British Columbia, Canada. In the '70s, Seaton traveled in the United States and Europe, studied medieval history in Austria, and then settled in San Francisco, where he turned to writing poetry. In 1977 he began painting, inspired by the writing of William Burroughs.

His most recent work is a 5½-by-4½-foot painting titled *The Bust of a Hero*, inspired by the ancient Greek sculpture *The Laocoön Group*. In 1968, at age 10, he saw the original while visiting the Vatican Museum in Rome. Since then, he says, "I've come to value its drama and humanity—a man and his sons wrestling to the death with inhuman, monstrous serpents." He considers *Laocoön* to be the first sculpture to portray strong human emotion.

Seaton's *Bust of a Hero* has also been influenced by computer graphics, and is the culmination of five years of sketching and preliminary drafts, including an earlier 15-by-8-foot triptych version.

Another of Seaton's paintings is *A Corporate Vision*. Far less heroic than *Bust*

of a Hero, this piece gives a comic salute to computer industry kingpins like Microsoft Corporation's Bill Gates, whose caricatured person appears in the work.

Although artistic imagination guides his painting—both on the screen as well as on canvas—the process isn't linear. "My approach is not ideological or a stylistic analysis. Sometimes it's just accidental what you discover and can use. And sometimes it's right there under my own nose, and I don't see it."

One of Seaton's goals is to realize a new visual standard in painting and computer graphics. "The two media can combine well," Seaton observes. "Painting is two-, three-, and four-dimensional, and in a way so is work produced on the computer. I think of the extra dimension in computer work as putting human feeling into the machine."

Still, he notes, there is a body of graphic rules that computer artisans have retained from traditional typography and design, such as not mixing too many typefaces on one page, and allowing for plenty of white space. "You can get away with breaking the rules sometimes," Seaton says, "but [you have to do it] with the least violation of people's visual sensibilities. You have to understand the basics of human communication."

If he invested considerably more dollars in some of the higher-level hardware and software now available for desktop publishing, Seaton could undoubtedly exceed his current efforts. But he prefers to stick to the basics. "Styles defined by limitations have their own merit," he explains, "which is very helpful to people with small budgets."

He emphasizes that an essential ingredient in working successfully at home is the support you receive from significant others. In his case, his wife Linda, head teacher at Eureka Learning Center on Diamond Street, has been an unstinting source of encouragement. "It's a great help, too," he adds, "to live in a community like Noe Valley, where people appreciate and respect artists and their work."

Seaton also finds that working for oneself is a way of working on one's self. "You can work on the things that will make you a better person," he explained. "You can go the extra mile to do the best possible job."

On the way to becoming a painter and computer artist, Seaton says he learned a valuable spiritual lesson: "The way of art is the way of my life."

"A craftsman," he says, "integrates his personality with the mediums he or she uses. There is no distinction." □

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Tee Shirt Maker Says Be Kind to Beasts

By Jane Underwood

There's a window in a house on 24th Street, between Church and Sanchez, that is often filled with messages. "Let's Call Them by Their Real Names—Dead Chicken, Dead Cow, Dead Pig" declares one. "Hunt Each Other—Leave the Animals Alone" admonishes another. And, instructs a third, "Avoid Getting Caught in the Fashion Trap—Don't Buy Fur."

The animal rights messages, 15 in all, are printed on the front of tee shirts displayed for the reading pleasure (or discomfort) of passersby. The man behind the messages is Greg Bracken, a 33-year-old artist/entrepreneur with a mail order business and a mission.

"I've always been into animal stuff," explains Bracken, who founded his business in July of 1990. "But what triggered it [the business] was being at a protest rally, when it suddenly hit me, this feeling that I had to do something."

The rally was held on World Day for Lab Animals, and was, for Bracken, only one of many activities he has taken part in as a member of such national organizations as In Defense of Animals (San Rafael) and the Fund for Animals (Fort Mason).

"Something" turned into Wild Wear—a tee shirt, sweatshirt, bumper sticker, and button business focused solely on getting the word out about animal rights.

Not all the slogans Bracken creates are as finger-wagging as the ones above. Some more gently reflect his spiritual leanings toward Zen Buddhism: "Compassion for All Beings," "Be Kind to Animals," "May All Beings Be Happy," and "Try a Little Tenderness—Boycott Veal."

And a few of the shirts offer up quotes, like the words of *Black Beauty* author Anna Sewall: "There is no religion without love, and people may talk as much as they like about their religion, but if it does not teach them to be kind to beasts as well as man, it is all a sham."

This quote, in fact, is also going onto a new line of greeting cards Bracken is



Twenty-fourth Street resident Greg Bracken has turned his animal rights activism into a business called Wild Wear, which produces tee shirts, bumper stickers, and buttons. PHOTOS BY PAMELA GERARD.

designing. "I've been turned down by most [retail] tee shirt reps," he explains, "because my stuff is too specific. So I'm going to try cards, too."

Bracken is basically a self-made guy. He dropped out of a Wisconsin high school when he was 16, and moved to San Francisco three years later. Since then, he has supported himself mostly by working in bookstores. But although he regrets "not having gone to art school," he is at no loss for ideas when it comes to creating designs for Wild Wear.

A part-time bookstore job still pays the rent, but Wild Wear is taking up all his spare time, not to mention space. "I live in a shared flat where I rent two rooms," he explains, "and one of them is now wall-to-wall tee shirts."

He sells his wearable wares mostly through animal rights and vegetarian publications. Himself a vegetarian "off and on for 15 years, and strictly so for seven or eight," Bracken confesses that his meatless diet "isn't the best—it's just more of an ethical thing."

But you don't have to be a vegetarian in order to fight animal abuse, Bracken notes. Some people champion animal

rights by wearing only "cruelty-free" makeup. Some refuse to wear leather.



It's merely a coincidence that this sticker was pasted onto a stop sign within a block of animal rights activist Greg Bracken's home.

Still others write letters and hold protests.

Bracken makes his own choices based on his simply-stated philosophy of "harming the least animals and the least people possible." His mail order brochure, with the headline "Walk Lightly and Carry a Big Shirt," speaks to his customers through a quote from his mentor, Albert Schweitzer:

"Life outside a person is an extension of life within him. This compels him to be part of it and accept responsibility for all creatures great and small. Life becomes harder when we live for others, but it also becomes richer and happier."

Bracken's rags haven't exactly made him richer, at least not financially. But his commitment to his cause keeps him optimistic. "I'm still in debt," he says, "but I'm not going broke. I'll look at my bills, and I'll think about giving up, but then I'll get a real nice letter from some customer, and it just cheers me right up. I like to think that the shirts are making a difference. It's real important to me. . . . I want to really live with compassion, which is the one word that encapsulates it all."



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Cootes Band In Cahoots With Symphony Orchestra

By Jeff Kaliss

At the Lone Palm on 22nd Street, over drinks on a wet night, two genres of music are raising each other's spirits.

On one side of the table are the 36-year-old Kurt Klipschutz and partner Bone Cootes, a guitarist in his late 20s. They're the founders of, and songwriters for, Bone Cootes and the Living Wrecks, a bar band that grafts Klipschutz's lyrics, dipped in poetry and irony, onto Cootes' New Orleans-bred blues sound.

Sitting across from them is Urs Leonhardt Steiner, conductor of the orchestra at the Community Music Center, located on Capp Street.

"Urs is always counseling us, in our low moments, that it's the process, and you gotta keep going," says Klipschutz, who lives close by on Alvarado Street. "And he's right. But in our corner of the field, it's gotta be leading somewhere."

"It is leading somewhere," responds Steiner, a thirty-something native of Switzerland. "If it weren't, you wouldn't be playing with an orchestra."

Steiner is referring to the unique musical collaboration scheduled for March 6 and 7 at the First Congregational Church at Mason and Post streets. After experiencing Mahler's *Symphony No. 1* (familiar territory to the classically-trained Steiner), the audience will be treated to three pieces penned by Cootes and Klipschutz.

The concert will be both visually and acoustically impressive, with Cootes' electrified quintet backed by a 100-piece combination of the Community Music Center Orchestra and the San Francisco Recreation Symphony, under Steiner's baton.

It's sure to benefit everyone concerned. "Mahler is not unusual anymore, though it used to be very unusual," Steiner says. "From my point of view as



At a March 6-7 concert, blues guitarist Bone Cootes (standing) will be backed up by a 100-piece orchestra, conducted by Urs Steiner of the Community Music Center. PHOTO BY B. DEVEL

a classical musician, I have to find a way to get people interested in what I do. We all know that at the [San Francisco] Symphony and the Opera, the average age of people who go there gets older and older. And I am not an old person."

This desire for outreach led Steiner to frequent the city's club scene, where he discovered the Living Wrecks playing such hip venues as the Paradise Lounge, the Hotel Utah, the Blue Lamp, the Bottom of the Hill, and the somewhat more pristine Noe Valley Ministry. He enjoyed their "new harmonic language," and arranged for an initial musical amalga-

tion at the Community Music Center last November.

"I know a lot of people in bands who came out to the show and just loved it," recalls Cootes.

"He brought in a lot of people who wouldn't otherwise have heard Haydn or Mozart, and vice versa," adds Steiner. "You also have to train an orchestra to be flexible," continues the conductor.

"I still get funny looks from about a quarter of them," admits Cootes.

"But that's exactly what I want," assures Steiner.

Steiner points out that newer music

(including the *Saxophone Concerto* by Enric Zappa, which also shares this month's program) demands that the orchestral players learn how to improvise, "which is very healthy for any type of musician to have to do."

On the other hand, Cootes, who up to now has neither read nor written music, is learning how to better communicate his musical ideas to a wide range of instrumentalists.

One of the pieces at the First Congregational Church will have Klipschutz reciting his "13 Ways of Looking at a Burrito." "It's sort of a commentary-satire on the aesthetics of fast food, and also a takeoff on a Wallace Stevens poem," explains Klipschutz, who occasionally makes use of the Living Wrecks at his own poetry readings and has published a collection called *The Good Neighbor Policies*, available at Small Press Traffic.

Although such collaborations are rare, and symphonies are not as popular with young audiences as they were in the '50s and '60s, Steiner notes that "this kind of thing was done at the beginnings of opera in the 16th and 17th centuries, much more often than it is today."

"It was not that rare to bring all kinds of musicians together, with poets or even jugglers. And obviously that aspect is for me as a musician very important, to go out there and remind people that if you come to a concert, it can be an event, a happening, which you can't create at home." (He adds that the March performance is free to the public, and that Community Music Center can answer questions at 647-6015.)

Steiner fantasizes about bringing Cootes and Klipschutz along on one of his summertime trips back to Europe, where unusual music often finds a better reception. But for the time being, the duo will probably continue to face American skepticism.

"People at record companies, they really want to know what it is," laments Klipschutz. "Is it rap, is it '60s, thrash metal? People want to categorize it, even though Urs doesn't have that concern."

"Money doesn't have anything to do with art, that's all there is to it, and you may never be recognized until you're 80 years old, who knows?" offers Steiner. "The only thing you can do is get better." □

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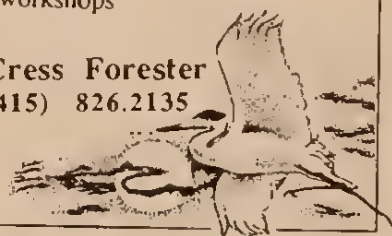
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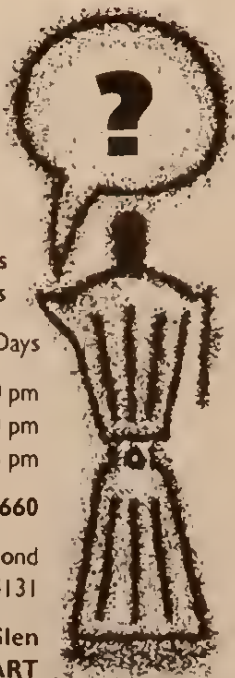
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Righteous Rain: Last month's storms caused the water table to rise and the umbrellas to blossom along 24th Street. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989
Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe
Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets,
7:30 p.m. Call for specifics.

Duncan-Newhurg Association

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734,
Janet Kennedy, 647-1844, or
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Irregular

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Kevin Brickley, 285-4938
Mailing Address: 165 Fair Oaks St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium,
24th and Guerrero streets

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

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Meetings: Irregular

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Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Harry Aleo, 824-0872
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Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank
of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month
7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Glen Park Association

Contact: Joan Seiwald, 586-4448
Mailing Address: Glen Park Association,
P.O. Box 31292, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Second Tuesday of month, Glen
Park Recreation Center, Elk and Chenery,
7:30 p.m.

Liberty-Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990, or
Hilda Bernstein, 282-8232
Mailing Address: 3333 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Quarterly.
Call for time and location.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Al Ujic, 648-3545, or
Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe
Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7 p.m.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
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Middle School Memories



Every month as the *Noe Valley Voice* deadline approaches, I start my article with a thread of thought that eventually weaves a story. But sometimes nothing percolates up from the far corners of my brain, and I become convinced that I have gone dry. Then, at the last minute, something always happens to bring on another batch of almost-forgotten memories.

This month, as I sat with a blank page and a blank mind, the phone rang. It was Linda, my nephew's bride, calling to ask me if I had graduated from Aptos School. I had. She told me that this year marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of the junior high school (nowadays called a middle school). Linda is part of a group of teachers and parents who are hoping to do something in commemoration.

This phone call sparked the idea for my column—I had three Aptos yearbooks up in the attic that I could delve into. I unearthed them, and then perused these mementos of my years at Aptos, from 1931 to 1933, and began to laugh as I relived my youthful days of trial and error.

I attended Sunnyside School, west of Glen Park, until the seventh grade. But when Aptos opened, everyone above the sixth grade was transferred to the new junior high, which was located at Ocean and Aptos avenues. During the summer prior to going to Aptos, my friend Elsie and I decided to make a trial run to determine the best route, as well as the time required to get to school.

Instead of the two blocks from our neighborhood to Sunnyside, we had to walk uphill about 20 blocks to get to Aptos. We walked because there was a depression on—10 cents bus fare was a lot of money in those days. That, and the streetcar took too much time. It took us about 30 minutes to get there (and as long as 45 minutes, once school started, depending on the weather and the things we saw along the way).

When we arrived at the handsome new building after our trial run, we were impressed. And since some out-to-lunch workman had left the door open, we sneaked inside to inspect the newly painted classrooms and the modern girls' restroom. Since no one was there to stop us, we couldn't resist looking into the boys' restroom as well. When we saw their accommodations, however, we were incensed. The boys always got the best of everything. We went home complaining that we had been cheated, because they had been given a long bath tub. We had no way of knowing that what we had seen was the latrine.

When fall classes began, we girls wore skirts, and the boys wore cords (corduroy pants). But when Marlena Deitrich introduced the new fashion of pants for females, our affluent friend

FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub



From what we can tell from the picture she circled in her 1931 Aptos Junior High School yearbook, it looks like Florence Mickelson (now Holub) had loads of Olympic potential, but she insists tumbling was not her thing.

Blossom bought a pair and wore them to class. The teacher was shocked, and consulted the principal, who sent Blossom home with the order not to come to school so attired again.

There were many elective classes to choose from at the well-equipped facility, and we wanted to try them all. I went out for the tumbling team, and can be found pictured in the 1931 yearbook as part of a pyramid of little girls, all wearing black bloomers and white blouses with collars (called "middies"), and frozen in various gymnastic positions. I am the skinny little girl with short, straight blond hair, doing a handstand on the left side.

A week after I began practicing my handstand, however, while attempting to boost my lower extremities upward, I somehow stomped on my right thumb, causing it to throb and swell to twice its normal size. I thought it wise to nurse

my thumb—and to give up tumbling forever.

In the 1932 journal I am shown in the photograph of the Aptos Mermaids, the swimming team that I tried next. We worked out—in our black, bulky, woolen, itchy and, as I remember them, ugly swimming suits—at the wonderful, long-gone Crystal Palace Baths, located in North Beach.

It quickly became clear that I lacked both speed and style in swimming, so I decided to test my diving. It was easy from the low board, so I soon climbed the ladder to the 10-foot board, dove head first, and plunged straight down to the bottom of the tank, where it became necessary to turn upward. I turned too abruptly, bending my spine into a painful V-shape. Thus I ended my swimming for the day—and, I decided, for the season.

The same yearbook contains some

sketches of my teachers, which I did whenever a lecture went on too long. I had finished six likenesses when my music teacher got wind of my activity and warned me that if her image were printed in the journal, I would not get a passing grade in her class. It was blackmail, but I did it her way and opted for the grade. None of the other teachers objected or retaliated, and one of them even signed his drawing, which I considered a stamp of approval.

In 1933 I graduated from Aptos, and that year I helped design and illustrate the yearbook. The designs had to be drawn, then transferred to a wooden square that would be the printing plate after the illustration was gouged out with a sharp tool. The teacher stressed how expensive the wood blocks were, and how careful I must be not to ruin them.

Nevertheless, I took the cover block home on the weekend to give me more time to do a good job. The work went well until I applied a little too much pressure, causing the corner to flip off—the very disaster that the teacher had warned me against!

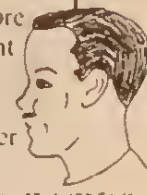
My wail of frustration brought my father running to the rescue. Fortunately he was an accomplished woodworker. In no time at all, he glued the chip back on, put it in a vise overnight, and by morning it was as good as new. Then, very carefully, I finished cutting out the design, and on the next day delivered my project with great relief.

The 1933 book also contained photographs of the graduates, including myself. My hair was longer and wavier by then, thanks to the availability and affordability of the miraculous new permanent wave. So with high school looming ahead, I looked less like a tomboy and more like a girl, at last!

These reflections probably won't serve the Aptos anniversary celebration, but they may bring a chuckle to anyone who remembers the happy, sometimes painful, formative years of youth.

To finish my story, I must declare that I still have a reminder of my tumbling skill—a tender and slightly enlarged thumb joint. Also, I suffered from back troubles after my swimming dive, until the day, 10 years later, when I worsened the condition by grabbing a bucket of white lead in my father's paint store. This turned out to be pure luck, though because I rushed to the nearest chiropractor, who realigned my vertebrae within a few visits, and corrected the damage. He was not able to reverse my permanent aversion to vigorous athletics, however.

With artistic endeavors I fared much better. Through the years, these efforts have caused no ill effects, aside from a little eyestrain now and then. And they have given me a gratifying purpose in life. I realize now how fortunate I was to find out early on, before damaging myself irreparably, that some of us are simply not cut out to be tumblers or mermaids.



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Split-Level Street: Paul Kantus, the keeper of the Noe Valley Archives, provided these shots of the evolution of Douglass Street (looking north from the corner of 21st), where he was raised and still lives. The earliest view dates from 1918, when the street was still undivided and

sloped uncomfortably downward from west to east, in the direction of Riley's Grocery (at right). In the early '20s, just before Kantus' father bought the property at the left side of the

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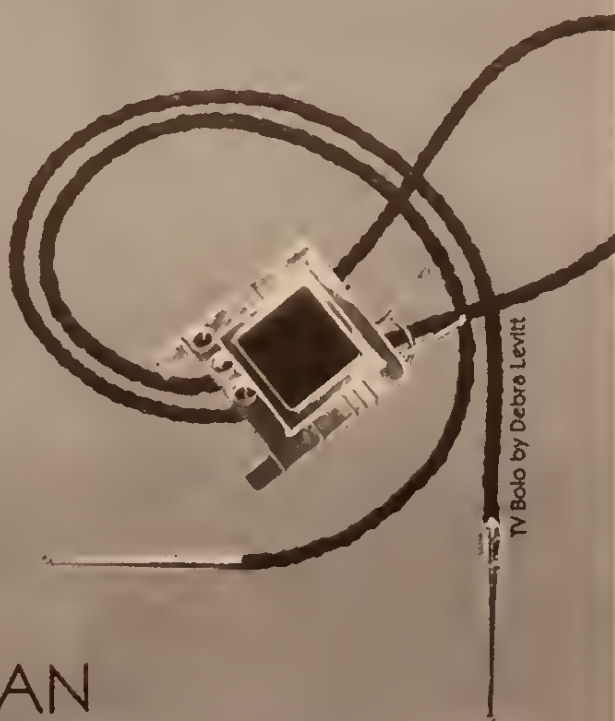
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photo, the city dug out the lower east portion of Douglass and installed a dividing wall, so that by 1927 (at the time of the third photo) the street had been re-constituted on two levels. The



present-day view confirms that it's still not a through street, though Douglass now connects with Corwin Street, which didn't exist when Kantus was a kid. PHOTOS COURTESY PAUL KANTUS

T O P O F 2 4 T H S T R E E T



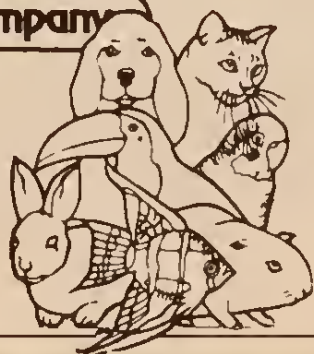
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Going Noewhere

THE NOE VALLEY BUREAU of Investigation (NVBI) has just obtained a copy of a column by Anna Freeman published in the Jan. 6, 1992, edition of the *Central Maine Morning Sentinel*, out of Waterville, Maine.

Headlined "Some Snippets from San Francisco," the column describes the "munificent hountry" that Ms. Freeman encountered in our fair neighborhood on a recent visit to San Francisco.

Freeman writes (with only mild exaggeration, I might add) that "on one city block alone in Noe Valley, where I was staying with my daughter, this is what you can find (now remember I'm talking one block):

"A liquor store, a Third World center, a jewelry shop, a bookstore, a household goods store, two flower shops/stands, a shoe store, a music store, a perfume store, a magazine/newspaper cafe, a woman's cotton clothing store, a discount cleaners, a Spanish/Mexican cantina with take-out burritos and tacos, a South American gift shop, a law office, the Second Baptist Church.

"That's for starters," she continues. "There's also a gourmet ice cream shop; a Bell Supermarket; a smaller but fully stocked imported produce, cheese, and wine shop; a Thai restaurant; an office/art photo supply store with Fax services and children's art supplies; an imported clothing, jewelry, and gift shop; two record stores; a maternity and children's clothing store; a coffee specialty shop; a dental office; a locksmith; a 24-hour banking facility; a bridal photography shop with live cats in the window.

"Would you believe there's also a gourmet cheese, coffee, and pâté store; a Fotomat with all film and camera accessories; a lingerie shop (and I mean the ooh-la-la kind); a French bakery; and finally Herb's Fine Foods Breakfast and Lunch diner, where I'm sitting writing this column in longhand. There are more

and now RUMORS behind the news for the BY MAZOOK

single men in this establishment alone than I have seen in Maine for the past five years! Wow!"

☎ ☎ ☎

THAT ABOUT SUMS IT UP for Downtown Noe Valley. But Freeman's list reminds me of some things I still can't figure out.

Why, for example, has the "bridal photography shop with live cats in the window" in the El Vira Building at the corner of 24th and Noe had its doors shut for almost 10 years? (Those cats must be starving!) Do you remember when the spot was occupied, albeit briefly, by Star Magic, which first materialized as the Gifts of the Magi?

And why did the "ooh-la-la" lingerie shop (Underneath It All) recently fold and close? Why, for that matter, have so many stores gone belly up in the Noe Valley Mall? It's actually one of the more peaceful and pleasant spots on the 24th Street strip. (Maybe that's why.)

A spinoff question: whatever happened to ooh La Roca, up the street near Diamond? The food was great, the atmosphere lively, and the prices reasonably reasonable, but the restaurant's been idle since last year.

In the meantime, how long do you think Downtown Noe Valley can support two newsstands, right across from one another on 24th Street? Will it be News on 24th or Good News? (The Voice is available at both, free, by the by.)

Why does it appear that San Francisco's police officers eat only donuts and pizza? Happy Donuts is very popular with our men and women in blue, and the red zones around Haystack and Noe Valley Pizza are filled with black-and-whites around dinnertime.

It's also a mystery to me why the Mystery Bookstore at 24th and Diamond stays closed more days than it is open. With reality being so unpalatable these days, we need more access to whodunits.

While I'm in a quizzical mood, why doesn't Dan's Gas offer some "self-service" pumps at lower prices for us cheap slobs?

☎ ☎ ☎

"WHERE'S EINSTEIN?" was the question in the window at Star Magic last month. Magic manager Gibbbsen Young was displaying his giant three-panel collage of over 250 faces, and challenging passersby to a "Where's Waldo?"-type game. When smart window-shoppers spotted Albert's face and announced their discovery to the store's clerks, they were rewarded with a little Star Magic trinket.

"We were trying to combine scientists' faces with those participating in various rituals," says Gibbbsen, "and, of course, each Star Magic staffer was also in there somewhere."

For those of you who searched in vain, Einstein was at the bottom of the center panel, pictured in a postcard being held by an aboriginal tribesman.

Cocolat staffer Melanie Rowland has also been stopping shoppers in front of the 24th and Castro store, proffering silver platters filled with yummy samples. "I'm out here with several platters a day, and they're gone pretty quick," says Melanie. I'll tell you they sure stopped me.

☎ ☎ ☎

SOUND THE ALARMS. There is a rumor rumbling through the Valley that the city is considering demolition of the historic Hoffman Street Firehouse, built

in 1913. Instead of refitting it, they want to replace the building with a new seismically-sound, two-engine station.

Support is swelling, however, to secure landmark status for one of the oldest working firehouses in San Francisco. The station, on Hoffman at Alvarado, has a beautiful mosaic brick floor. Check it out.

Even more alarming is the rumor that the Noe Valley Library may be relegated to a two-day-a-week operation, that is, if a new round of projected city budget cuts goes through. Mad as hell and not going to take it anymore, the group Friends of Noe Valley is planning to devote the first 15 minutes of its March 12 meeting to letter-writing in protest (7:30 p.m. at the branch, 451 Jersey St.).

Librarian Roberta Greifer says the public is also invited to vent steam at a special hearing on the proposed cuts the night before, on Monday, March 11, 7 p.m. (also at the local branch). The meeting will be attended by representatives from the San Francisco Library Commission, so let's come out in force.

Also, be sure to mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m. That's when several Noe Valley neighborhood groups will be holding a Town Hall meeting featuring Mayor Frank Jordan. The site has been tentatively set for the Noe Valley Ministry. But since the Ministry can hold only around 200 people, organizers say they'll probably move the Town Hall to either the James Lick or Alvarado School auditorium.

Noe Valley's resident supervisor, Roberta Achtenberg, has launched a series of her own Town Halls, in order to get feedback from constituents. According to her staff, Achtenberg's Noe Valley meeting will be held sometime in May. Her first was in Eureka Valley (at Douglass School) Feb. 26.

Stay tuned to this station for further details on all of the above.

Continued on Page 31

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Where's Waldo When You Need Him? This 1937 U.S. Army photograph, which comes to the Voice courtesy of neighborhood resident Paul Kantux, shows how Noe Valley looked from several thousand feet up several decades back. Can you find a landmark? How 'bout Dolores Park (him, hint)?

RUMORS

NOE NAMEDROPS: The Valley lost one of its claims to fame last month. World-class music man Bobby McFerrin moved out of his 28th Street digs and into the old Graham Nash house on Buena Vista Terrace. Does this mean Bobby won't be jamming at the neighborhood party May 17? (It happens at Upper Noe Rec Center.)

There's been a lot of jamming recently

at the Sanchez Street recording studio Mobius. The East Bay R & B group Ubaka has been laying down some tracks for an album/c.d. on the Cherrie Records label.

Also marching into Mobius for some sets were the members of ROVA, the hot sax quartet. And singer-guitarist John Gorka was recording another album for Windham Hill.

Jazz pianist Larry Vulcovich made a jingle for an ad promoting lawyers (yes, lawyers), and even the cajun sounds of Mumbo Gumbo graced Mobius' mikes last month.

Mobius mogul Oliver DiCicco notes that he's organized his own six-piece group called Mobius Operandi, which performs improvisational music by playing on "instrument sculptures." I'll believe it when I hear it.

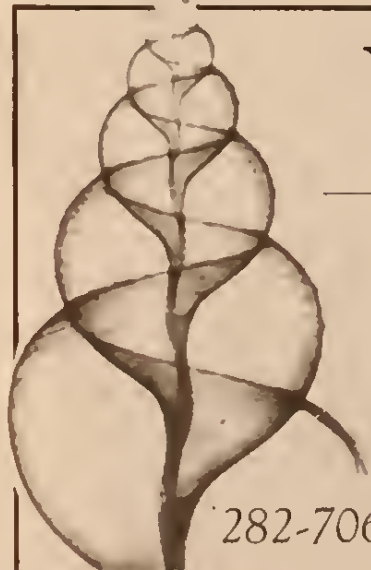


TOP OF THE POPS Streetlight Records' Roger Weiss reports that the store's chartbuster these days is *Black-eyed Man* by the Cowboy Junkies. For the uninitiated, "it's the kind of blues based in soft sultry rock," he says.

Over at Aquarius Records, the pick of the month is Yola Tingo's *May I Sing with Me*, described by Aquarian Windy C. as "feedback-laden pop." Okey-dokey.

The non-fiction read of the month at Cover to Cover bookstore is Gloria Steinham's *Revolution from Within*. Over on the fiction shelf, Cover to Cover's Mark Ezarik recommends Carl Hiaasen's *Native Tongue*, "the most savage and hilarious book I've read in years."

Well, that's the bottom of the rumor pile for this month. Happy trails. May the ozone be above you. □



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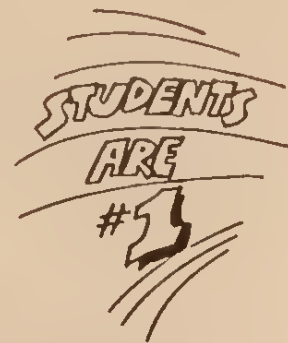
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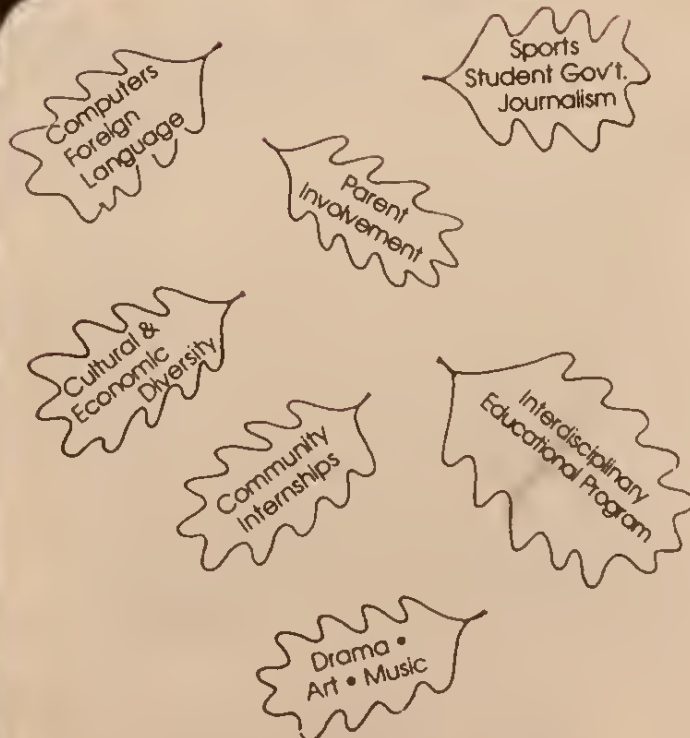
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MORE MOUTHS • to feed •

Daniel Cole Tipple

Special Report: Noe Valley Voice editor and on-location baby reporter Jane Underwood gives us this first-person account of events following the birth of a son, on Aug. 15, 1991, to Voice co-publisher Jack Tipple and his wife, Helen Colgan.

DAY ONE: Daniel Cole Tipple arrives on the scene at California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) at 4:12 a.m., tipping the scales at 7 pounds, 2 ounces.

DAY TWO: Jack comes into the office to help with photo editing. Everyone assures him that it is okay to take the day off, but he sticks around anyway. The New Father has an air about him—a gentle, happy, spaced-out look. He informs us that he's already trained himself not to panic when Daniel cries. He knows how to bounce his son in an appropriate manner, and that each and every adrenalin-triggering wail does not signal the end of the world.

Jack is here with us in our small office, but he also isn't. The real Jack is having an out-of-body experience: he is still back at the old homestead with Helen, or perhaps even further back, at the hospital, anxiously coaching: "You're doin' great, Bub! I can see his hair! You're doin' great!"

After an hour of hovering, Jack calls Helen to make sure that she and Daniel are okay holding down the fort. He then begins shifting from one foot to the other, explaining that he is feeling the "tug" to get back to Daniel.

Go, go! we urge. Vamoose! We've got it covered, Jack. But before he can leave, Suzanne and I (two of the first staffers to break baby ground), wangle an invitation to visit Helen and the baby.

ON THE HOME FRONT: Two hours later, an amazingly energetic Helen buzzes us in to their Blair Terrace house. We troop upstairs to the living room, where Jack is ensconced with Daniel on the couch—pillow in lap, Daniel on the pillow.

Daniel is perfect. His skin is already smooth, he has hair, and he's making those distinctive newborn sounds and facial expressions.

Helen looks beautiful as she relates her birth story. Her fair, Irish, freckled complexion is aglow, and her long auburn hair frames her forehead, shining. She probably thinks she looks a wreck, but her life force, like her eyes, is big with the wonder and the pride and the miracle.



If the photo on this "More Mouths" page looks a tad grandiose, it's because Voice co-publisher Jack Tipple, shown here with wife Helen Colgan and baby Daniel, was responsible for sizing it. (No, he's not proud.) PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

"It began on Wednesday morning," she says, and her story tumbles out in the way that most birth stories do, as a jumble of details that are simultaneously personal and universal. Jack was a good coach—he even threw his hip out while leaning devotedly over the bed, she says. And though he couldn't find the photos of the cats for her to focus on, he did play their tape of Harry Belafonte singing *Danny Boy*.

DAY EIGHT: Jack and Helen have ventured out into the world with their prized and wobbly treasure. They are making a pit stop at the office now, so that Helen can nurse Daniel.

Their bravery is impressive. On the way home from the hospital, they tell me, they took their son to meet the staff at Hungry Joe's and the Sidetrack Cafe, around the corner from where Helen works as an administrator at CPMC Senior Services on 30th Street.

But Jack confesses that trying to get Daniel propped up in the car seat has been "scary." He needs more practice keeping his adored but boneless blob from rolling up like a potato bug. Thank goodness he has a week of vacation left (from his job as general manager at Bay Area Prep).

"He's only 8 days old," laments Helen, "and already I can't bear the thought of leaving him to go back to work."

Daniel's umbilical cord has fallen off, she adds, but she feels just as connected to him now as before.

But on to more practical matters. Helen's giant powder blue diaper bag is a classic—it weighs a ton. She has to lower it carefully in order to take Daniel from Jack, and then hoist it onto her shoulder again.

The intricate process of arranging and rearranging baby, diaper bag, purse, and coat takes a full five minutes, with Jack and Helen laboring in tandem.

Then the new family floats out the door, moving at their new snail's pace, learning how to walk, talk, and breathe as a unit of three.

HALF-A-YEAR UPDATE: With six months of parenting experience under their belts, and Daniel under their feet ("He can scoot halfway across the floor just by wiggling and rolling and squirming"), Jack and Helen have joined the ranks of the initiated.

"If it takes me three days to get the house cleaned, instead of three hours," says Helen, "well, that's just the way it goes."

"Getting him into his car seat? No problem!" declares Jack. "He's got a more defined backbone now. The problem is, he's using it like a Slinky!"

"If you're considering having a baby and are undecided," he adds, "my advice

is, do it, because the highest joys are going to be found through this experience—also, the greatest risks for heartbreak. But you don't get one without the other.

"I would say that all babies express beauty...but Daniel, well, Daniel is beautiful."

"Jack's got it exactly right," agrees Helen. "All babies are beautiful. It's just that Daniel is *really* beautiful."

"He's the standard," our modest co-publisher says with total objectivity, "upon which all babies will be forever judged." □

MORE MOUTHS TO FEED wants to show off your newest family member. If you have a new baby in residence or you just adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to include your address and phone number, so we can contact you to arrange for the family portrait. □

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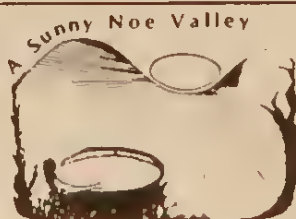


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We know, we know: so much to read, so little time. But here's a new list of mind-expanders, selected by Noe Valley librarians Roberta Greifer (adult books) and Carol Small (children's).

The librarians also recommend that you check out a new film discussion group which has started meeting at the Noe Valley Library on the third Wednesday of the month. (On March 18, 6:30 to 9 p.m., Noe Valley resident Cary Friedman will host a video showing of the foreign film *Kitchen Toto*, followed by a half hour or so of Siskel-and-Eberting. Admission is free.)

But before you attend the film series, drop by 451 Jersey St. on March 11, 7 p.m., to help us try to fathom (or not) proposed cuts to the library's hours and staffing. Yes, the branch is once again threatened with the budget ax—we'll have a story next month—and the San Francisco Public Library is conducting a special hearing on the matter that night.

In the meantime, the Noe Valley Library is open Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. (Phone: 695-5095).



MORE Books to Read

Adult Fictinn

Beyond Deserving, a novel by Sandra

Scofield that was nominated for a National Book Award, focuses on the troubled, 20-year relationship between an alcoholic Vietnam veteran and his "co-dependent" wife.

Elizabeth Moore's *Cold Times* depicts the lives of two rural New England families, connected by a legacy of poverty and despair.

Imagining America, edited by Wesley Brown and Amy Ling, is a multicultural short story anthology that depicts the American immigrant experience.

Set in contemporary Los Angeles, *Rising Sun* by Michael Crichton features a

Japanese conglomerate caught up in technological intrigue.

Adult Non-Fiction

The Business of Being an Artist, a how-to book by Daniel Grant, contains information on galleries, grants, and publicity for both the beginning and seasoned artist.

In *Cancer in Two Voices*, authors Sandra Butler and Barbara Rosenblum share their experience of coping with breast cancer.

Hank Gallo's *Comedy Explosion: A New Generation* profiles 40 of today's funniest comedians, including Paula Poundstone, Carrie Snow, and Will Durst.

In *The Overworked American*, economist Juliet Schor explores some of the reasons Americans enjoy less leisure time.

Children's Fiction

An imaginative boy solves all the potential problems relating to pet ownership in *The Salamander Room* by Anne Mazer (Ages 3-5)

Max's shopping trip with sister Ruby has some anxious moments, but ends happily in *Max's Dragon Shirt* by Rosemary Wells. (Ages 4-6)

Ten-year-old Hannah reflects on growing up, and questions the value of friendship in *Hannah on Her Way* by Claudia Mills. (Ages 9 and up)

Two high school students, Beebe and Mark, have a lot in common—but will they ever meet? Find out by reading *Circles* by Marilyn Sachs. (Ages 11 and up)

Children's Non-Fiction

While going along on his mother's peace mission, an American boy visits a family in the (former) Soviet Union in *Georgia to Georgia* by Laurie Dolphin. (Ages 6 and up)

In *Hitting* you'll find many tips on baseball technique from author Jay Feldman, and from Ted Williams, Babe Ruth, and others. (Ages 8 and up)

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BENEFIT CONCERT for the Integral Yoga Institute. Muruga Booker, yogi, percussionist song writer, and international recording artist will be leading a concert and chanting session to benefit the Integral Yoga Institute. Friday, March 20, 7:30 p.m., \$5. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St., S.F. 821-1117.

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FINDING YOUR VOICE/Claiming Your Place! New group forming for women close to or over 50. This is a support, problem-solving and therapy group for women in transition, dealing with losses, anxiety, or blocks to creativity—or just plain stuck. Weekly sessions, day and time determined by the earliest registrants. Sliding scale, negotiable. Jeanne Adleman, 585-0666, an educator-turned-therapist: a secure group leader with 18 years' experience in counseling. Her work benefits from a life full of losses, transitions, changes.

JUST PLAIN GOOD THERAPY. Brief counseling, crisis help or long-term work in depth—for lesbian/gay/heterosexual/in-between or uncertain individuals and couples—offered by well-aged, intuitive, perceptive and highly skilled counselor who has seen, heard and experienced a broad range of life's challenges. Upper Glen Park, easy parking. Jeanne Adleman, M.A., 585-0666. Excellent resource for teachers, or people with parent concerns.

LEARN JAPANESE. All levels conversation, grammar, reading and writing. Daytime, evening or weekend classes. Individual or group. Learn Japanese and Japanese culture in a relaxed atmosphere. Professional Japanese language instructor. Call Atsuko, 824-1883.

SKI LOVERS/TAHDE GETAWAY! Beautiful Tahoe home in prestigious Incline Village. Skiing at nearby Diamond Peak, Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, Mt. Rose and more! Twenty minutes to South Shore casinos and shows. Large kitchen, three bedrooms, two baths, steam/sauna room, living room with fireplace, two decks, garage, all appliances and laundry. Call now for ski season! 282-7955.

NEW IMPROVED NDE'S NEST bed and breakfast. Unit A: private entrance, private bath, kitchenette, queen bed. Cute and cozy. Unit B: view, private bath, deck, fireplace, hot tub, queen bed. Unit C: ultra-view, private bath, steam room, parlor, king bed, fireplace and deck. All with cable and VCR. Masseuse and daycare available. Contact Sheila, 821-0751.

SPIRITED SUPPORT GROUP for people who want to develop a healthy relationship to food, and lose weight. Program includes a nutritious, safe food plan and recommended physical activity in a mini-community of people who are successfully meeting the challenges of eating well. Led by formerly overweight woman with extensive experience with a well-respected nationwide weight-loss program. Small groups meet Saturdays in Noe Valley, after work downtown, once a week for 10 weeks. New group starts Saturday, March 21. Try one meeting free before deciding—you'll find warmth and wisdom, 550-0891.

MOVING TRAUMA? We specialize in packing kitchens, electronics, antiques, and fine art. Superb care, work, references. Residential or commercial. Free binding estimates. Cardinal Packing, 759-5638.

JOURNEY INTO MOTHERHOOD: a journal-writing workshop for pregnant women and new mothers. Gives you the time, focus, and support to deeply connect with your child, yourself, and other mothers; to resolve core issues through writing; to explore your creativity. Twelve-week series starts March 19. Call Leslie, Ripe Fruit, 285-1926.

EXPERT GARDENING, landscaping, carpentry, tree work. Water-saving, irrigation, pruning, maintenance, repair, construction. Wood, stone, brick, concrete. Ecological pest control. \$15-\$20/hour. Gary, 821-4826.

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TAX PREPARATION and consultations by tax professional who specializes in working with self-employed people. All types of individual returns prepared, including rental property and prior years. Careful, reliable service since 1978. Licensed to represent clients in IRS matters. Office at Valencia/23rd. Jan Zobel, E.A. 821-1015.

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FINE CUSTOM FURNITURE. Home and office furniture, entertainment centers. Free estimate. Call Etager, 822-4939.

CUSTOM CLOSETS. Free estimate. Call Etager, 822-4939.

INTUITIVE BODYWORK for people who care about themselves. Certified massage therapist practicing in Noe Valley for five years. Swedish, Shiatsu, deep tissue; good for pain release and stress reduction. I also offer a gentle touch emotional release type work that can be done on an ongoing basis. For an appointment, call Rose at 641-5209.

REAL ESTATE SEMINARS offered by an experienced and successful property owner. Learn how to save thousands of dollars when remodeling or purchasing a home or units. Take advantage of the current low interest rates and a buyer's market (415) 979-5565.

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VISITING FAMILY AND FRIENDS will enjoy the lovely Noe Valley home, gracious hostess, and scrumptious breakfasts at Liz's Bed and Breakfast. 648-2515.

COUNSELING/PSYCHOTHERAPY for women who want to become more powerful in their relationships, careers, and in making changes. ACA issues, incest, co-dependency, grief, life transitions. Sliding scale. Linda-Sue Edwards, M.F.C.C. #ML021917. 661-8252.

KARATE FOR KIDS! Get strong! Have fun! Classes Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Randi Hoffman, 564-6165.

CARPENTRY AND PAINTING: Interior/exterior, minimum on small jobs. Local references. Sandy, 585-6542.

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WINDOW REPAIRS: Replace glass, ropes and putty. Also small carpentry and household repair jobs. Deadbolt locks. Free estimates. Courteous service. I am always on time. City Window Service 337-9327.

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CUSTOM PHONE INSTALLATION: Why pay more? Auntie Belle, an alternative phone installation service! Jacks added, lines moved, repaired. Weekday evenings. Over 10 years experience. Call Alice, 647-5683.

FURNITURE STRIPPED and refinished. Fine work quickly done, e.g., dresser with mirror, \$150 Jim, 621-4390, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PDETRY WANTED: The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of poetry related to neighborhood themes, people, or places. Payment upon publication. Send submissions with SASE (and a phone number, please) to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

How to Use Voice Class Ads

The rate for classified advertising in the Noe Valley Voice is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢ (we trust you), enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue.

It also would be a big help if you would indicate whether you are renewing an ad from a previous issue and, if so, include a copy of the published ad with your renewal.

Recession Discount: The Voice comes out 10 times a year (we don't publish an issue in January and August). If you decide to place a classified ad in 10 issues (a year's worth), you're entitled to a 10 percent discount. Just deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be highlighted in all caps.

Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: The next issue of the Voice will appear Wednesday, April 1, 1992. Please mail your ad and check—made payable to the Noe Valley Voice—so that we receive it by March 15, 1992. Sorry, but we are unable to take phone or drop-in orders.

Receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. □

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CALENDAR

MARCH 1-31: The Noe Valley Library displays RAGGEDY ANN and other soft dolls handcrafted by neighborhood resident Esther Robinson. Library hours: Tues., 10 am-noon; Wed., 1-9 pm; Thurs.-Sat., 1-6 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

MARCH 3, 10, 24 & 31: A preschool STORY TIME, for kids 3-5, unfolds at the branch library at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

MARCH 4, 11, 18 & 25: LAPSITS for infants, toddlers, and their parents continue on Wednesdays at 7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

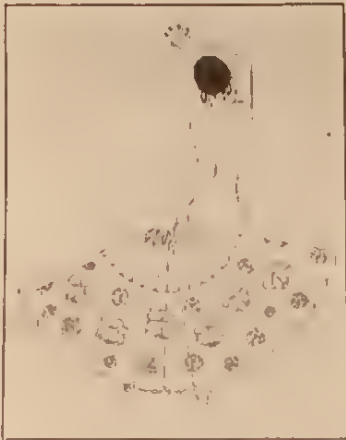
MARCH 5: Six Bay Area contributors will read from *Piece of My Heart: A LESBIAN OF COLOUR ANTHOLOGY* 8 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 282-9246.

MARCH 5-7: The Liss Fain OANCE troupe premieres *Place and Sudden Changes* at the New Performance Gallery. 8:30 pm. 3153 17th St. 863-9834

MARCH 6 & 7: Harriet Beinfield and Elrem Korngold, of Chinese Medicine Works, lead a lecture/workshop, "Five Mythic Archetypes in CHINESE MEDICINE." 9:30 am-5:30 pm. California Institute of Integral Studies, 765 Ashbury St. 753-6100.

MARCH 6-18: Jan Oxenberg's wryly humorous OOCU-FANTASY, *Thank You and Goodnight*, is an emotional account of the death of the filmmaker's grandmother. 6, 8 & 10 pm, matinees Wed., Sat. & Sun., 2 & 4 pm. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. 863-1087

MARCH 6-22: Irene Haughey's adaptation, *Beauty and the Beast* for FLAMENCO, tells a passionate love story through Spanish dance, drama, and modern ballet. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 3 pm. Phoenix Theatre, 301 8th St. 621-4423



A flamenco form of "Beauty and the Beast" is playing weekends at the Phoenix Theatre
GRAPHIC BY IRENE HAUGHEY

MARCH 7-APRIL 11: The British PLAY *Twice Over*, an exploration of friendships that cross class, generational, and racial lines, was first performed by London's lesbian and gay theater company, Gay Sweatshop, in 1988. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm; March 15, 22 & 29, 3 pm; March 14, 21, 28 & April 4, 5 pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079

MARCH 8: A new CLASSICAL MUSIC series, Noe Valley Sunday Afternoons, presents the Twin Pines Woodwind Quintet, in a concert of compositions ranging from Bach to French contemporary. 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

MARCH 9: This is the deadline to register for Shanti's VOLUNTEER training, focusing on work with children and families impacted by HIV. Call 777-2273 for information

MARCH 9: The Diamond Senior Center holds its OANCE and party celebrating March birthdays. Noon-3 pm. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507

MARCH 11: The monthly meeting of the S.F. Mothers of TWINS Club offers networking, advice, and double the fun. 7:30 pm. UCSF Ambulatory Care Center, 400 Parnassus Ave. 387-7241.

MARCH 11: The public is invited to a special meeting on city budget cuts that could reduce hours and staff at the NOE VALLEY LIBRARY. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

MARCH 11-29: Intersection for the Arts presents *A Murder of Crows*, Mac Wellman's surreal SATIRE set in the wake of the Gulf War. Thurs.-Sun., 8 pm. 446 Valencia St. 626-2787

MARCH 12: Good Vibrations' 15th ANNIVERSARY BASH is emceed by Susie Bright, and features a fashion show from Stormy Leather, erotic readings, and undulations by the Fat Chance Belly Dance troupe. 7-10 pm. 1210 Valencia St. 550-7399.

MARCH 12: Voice writer Larry Beresford reads his POETRY at the Coffee Mill, 3363 Grand Ave., Oakland. 7 pm. (510) 465-4224

MARCH 13: OPTIONS FOR WOMEN Over Forty explores ways to "Develop a Goal-Setting Strategy" at an ongoing Friday afternoon job workshop. 1-3 pm. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 431-6405.

MARCH 13: Cine Accion presents a 1968 Cuban CLASSIC FILM, *Memories of Underdevelopment*, set in the early days of the revolution. 8 pm. New College, 777 Valencia St. 553-8135

MARCH 13: H. Bruce Franklin discusses his investigation of the POW matter titled *M.I.A. or Mythmaking in America*. 8 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 282-9246

MARCH 13: The Noe Valley Movies crew has organized a "psychotronic" FILMS night, featuring *The Crawling Eye*, plus sci-fi trailers, cartoons, and shorts. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

MARCH 14: Local WOMEN ACTIVISTS share stories and plan strategies in "Looking Back, Gathering Strength, Moving Forward: The Women's Movement 1979-1992." 10 am-5 pm. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 431-1180

MARCH 14: In conjunction with S.F. State, SPCA veterinarian Sue Buxton conducts a SEMINAR on how pet owners can prevent as well as detect health problems in their animals. 10 am-3 pm. S.F. SPCA, 2500 16th St. Call 338-1205 to register.

MARCH 14: Celebrate International Women's Month at the 11th annual "Our COMEON, Ourselves," with Marga Gomez, Renee Hicks, and others. 8-15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

MARCH 17: The Noe Valley Library shows FILMS for preschoolers at 10 and 11 am; for children 6 and up at 3:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

MARCH 18: Minister Carl Smith and Phoebe McAfee lead "BODYPRAYER: Prayer and Contemplation in and Through Movement." 7:30-9 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

MARCH 18: The foreign film *Kitchen Toto* will be the focus of a FILM DISCUSSION group hosted by Noe Valley resident Cary Friedman. 6:30-9 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.



Kitka brings the diatonic a cappella sounds of Eastern Europe to the Noe Valley Music Series March 7

MARCH 19: Local author and teacher LESLIE SIMON reads from her new book, *Collisions and Transformations*. 8 pm. Old Wives' Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675

MARCH 19: Modern Times Bookstore presents a READING from *My Brother's Keeper*, an anthology that reinterprets the roles of black men. 8 pm. 968 Valencia St. 282-9246

MARCH 19 & 20: The Noe Valley Ministry invites the neighborhood to its SPRING EQUINOX RITUAL. Thurs., 6:15-7 pm; Fri., 7:15-8 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

MARCH 21: Bargains abound in clothes, housewares, books, and furniture at Alvarado School's RUMMAGE SALE and raffle, to benefit school programs that have been threatened by budget cuts. 10 am-4 pm. 625 Ounglass St. 285-6168.

MARCH 21: The IAN DOYLE UNIT creates acoustic jazz fusion of music from around the world. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

MARCH 22: Emily Shihadeh and Yishar Hope give a presentation on "Turning Personal Swords into Plowshares: The Pathos of the PALESTINIAN/ISRAELI Conflict." 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

MARCH 22: 20th Century Forum's 1992 CONCERT SERIES begins with "New Muse. Contemporary Compositions for Piano, Flute, and Electronics." 7 pm. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 255-8225.

MARCH 23-26: CLUB FOOT Orchestra performs its new soundtrack for Buster Keaton's film *Sherlock Jr.*, and a special arrangement of Erik Satie's score for René Clair's surrealist short *Entr'acte*. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St. Call 621-6120 for times.

MARCH 24: S.F. Community College offers a free eight-week course, "Sex and Love ADOPTIONS." 6:30 pm. Everett Middle School, 450 Church St. 585-5150

MARCH 24: Francisco X. Alarcón reads from his book of Hispanic LOVE SONNETS, *De Amor Oscuro/Of Dark Love*. 8 pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St. 626-ARTS

MARCH 25: Sex and relationships columnist ISADORA ALMAN signs copies of her book, *Sex Information. May I Help You?* 7:30-9:30 pm. Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St. 550-7399

MARCH 27: Integral Yoga Institute shows a VIDEO about Sri Swami Satchidananda. 7:30 pm. 770 Oloores St. B21-1117

MARCH 27 & 28: The S.F. Community MUSIC CENTER registers students for its spring quarter. Fri., 3-7 pm, Sat., 10 am-1 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015

MARCH 27-APRIL 1: Trinh T. Minh-ha's award-winning *Shoot for the Contents* opens the WOMEN MAKE MOVIES series at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. Call 863-1087 for schedule.



Family Day on March 7 allows prospective young students and their parents to inspect programs at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.
PHOTO BY KINGSMOND YOUNG

MARCH 27-29 & APRIL 3-5: The Young People's Musical Theatre Company performs *SOUTH PACIFIC* at the Randall Museum. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9523

MARCH 28: Psychic Horizons' free PSYCHIC HEALING FAIR is scheduled for 2-4 pm at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 346-7906

MARCH 29: Katherine Roberts Perl performs the music of L. Couperin, Ouphy, and Bach at a HARPSICHORD RECITAL. 3 pm. Bethany Church Music Series, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

MARCH 30: Jane Burda, Gerr Or Giorno, Lee Hopkins, Judy Stedman, William Talcott, and Lynn Watson will read selections from their work at a POETRY READING SERIES that also includes an open mike. 3300 Club, 29th & Mission. 824-0835.

MARCH 31: Author Kathy McAfee presents a LECTURE, "Women and Development in the Third World." Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: The next issue of the *Voice* will appear Wednesday, April 1, and will cover events during the month of April. The deadline for calendar items is March 15, 1992.

MARCH 1992

MARCH 7: The women's chorus KITKA presents the haunting folk music of Bulgaria, Croatia, Russia, Czechoslovakia, and other Eastern European countries. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

MARCH 7: The S.F. Conservatory of Music holds a FAMILY DAY for prospective students. Classes, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; music and dance performance, 10:30 am. 1201 Ortega St. 564-8086

MARCH 7: Noe Valley GARDENERS dig into the topic of "Compost and Soil Testing," supervised by Susan Madonich. 2:30-4 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 752-5686.

MARCH 7: Escola Nova de SAMBA begins Saturday rehearsals for Carnival '92 and welcomes percussionists and dancers at all levels. 2:30-4 pm. Call 648-8514 for location.

MARCH 9, 23 & 30: The San Francisco Sri Chinmoy Centre sponsors a free MEDITATION CLASS. 6-7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 584-1027.

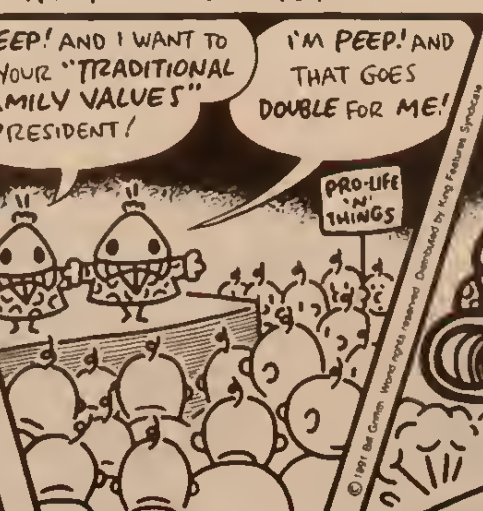
MARCH 9-APRIL 19: Noe Valley's Tim Baskerville and Lance W. Keimig exhibit their color NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHS of abandoned industrial sites. 9 am-9 pm; reception March 22, 7-9 pm. Solano Avenue Gallery, 1823 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 647-2390.

MARCH 10: EARTH SAVE sponsors the Y.E.S. (Youths for Environmental Sanity) Tour, teenagers addressing ecological issues through speech, drama, and slide shows. 7:30-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 751-4013

ZIPPY



"DOIN' TH' FOTO OP HOP"



BILL GRIFFITH

